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The Long Island FISHERMAN

The Largest Weekly Sportfishing Magazine in the United States!

NOVEMBER 13th, 1980 ★ VOLUME 15, NUMBER 46

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E HOOKER
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ISLIP NY 11751

HIGH TIDE TABLES

DAY	SANDY HOOK AM	SANDY HOOK PM	Breakwater Harbor AM	Breakwater Harbor PM	NEW YORK AM	NEW YORK PM	NEW LONDON AM	NEW LONDON PM	WILLETS POINT AM	WILLETS POINT PM	BRIDGE-PORT AM	BRIDGE-PORT PM	NEW-PORT AM	NEW-PORT PM	DATE
THUR.	11:05	11:35	11:55	—	11:30	—	12:35	12:35	2:05	2:15	2:20	2:30	11:20	11:50	11/13
FRI.	—	12:00	12:25	12:50	12:20	12:30	1:30	1:35	2:55	3:10	3:10	3:30	—	12:15	11/14
SAT.	12:35	1:00	1:30	1:50	1:20	1:25	2:30	2:40	3:50	4:10	4:05	4:30	12:50	1:15	11/15
SUN.	1:40	2:05	2:35	2:55	2:20	2:35	3:35	3:45	4:50	5:15	5:05	5:35	1:50	2:15	11/16
MON.	2:45	3:15	3:40	3:55	3:25	3:40	4:30	4:50	5:55	6:20	6:10	6:35	2:50	3:15	11/17
TUE.	3:50	4:15	4:35	4:55	4:30	4:45	5:25	5:50	7:05	7:35	7:05	7:35	3:50	4:15	11/18
WED.	4:50	5:15	5:35	5:55	5:25	5:45	6:15	6:45	8:10	8:40	8:00	8:35	4:40	5:05	11/19
THUR.	5:45	6:10	6:25	6:45	6:20	6:40	7:10	7:40	9:05	9:45	8:55	9:25	5:35	6:00	11/20

HOW TO USE TIDE TABLES:

To compute the high tide for the area you wish to fish, simply find the closest area on the conversion tables. Add or subtract the hours and minutes as indicated from that areas station above. Example: "Shinnecock Inlet.....—0 50" is listed under "On SANDY HOOK." —0 50 means you subtract 50 minutes from the times given for the SANDY HOOK STATION for the day you are going fishing. This is the approximate time for the high tide in the area. For low tide, add 6 ½ hours to this figure.

On SANDY HOOK

STATEN ISLAND	+ 0 27
ATLANTIC HIGHLANDS	—0 01
Red Bank, Navesink R.I.	+ 0 48
Long Branch	—0 34
SHARK RIVER INLET	—0 18
Shark River Basin	+ 0 27
MANASQUAN INLET	—0 12
Seaside Park	—0 33
Mantoloking Bridge	+ 5 34
TOMS RIVER	+ 4 37
Waretown	+ 2 33
BARNEGAT LIGHT	—0 20
Manahawkin Bridge	+ 2 33
Beach Haven	+ 1 47
LITTLE EGG INLET	—0 01
Seven Islands	+ 0 12
Graveling Point	+ 1 05
Mullica River	+ 1 55
Grassy Bay	+ 1 08
ABSECON INLET	+ 0 14
Atlantic City Pier	—0 26
Gt. Egg Harbor Inlet	+ 0 12
GREAT EGG HARBOR	+ 0 46
CORSON INLET	+ 0 09
TOWNESEND INLET	+ 0 06
HEREFORD INLET	+ 0 02
Grassy Sound Bridge	+ 0 45
Cape May Harbor	—0 02
Rehoboth Beach	—0 07
INDIAN RIVER INLET	+ 0 14
SHINNECOCK INLET	—0 50
Shinnecock Bay	+ 1 25
East Quogue	+ 2 45
Shinnecock Canal	+ 1 18
Indian Reservation	+ 3 05
MORICHES INLET	—0 56
Smith's Point	+ 3 28
Harts Cove	+ 1 30
Potunck Point	+ 3 35
Mastic Beach	+ 3 28
FIRE ISLAND INLET	—0 38
Democrat Point	—0 38
Coast Guard Station	—0 19
Fire Island Light	+ 0 47
GREAT SOUTH BAY	
Sayville	+ 3 39
Heckscher State Pk.	+ 3 20
Bay Shore	+ 2 23
Babylon	+ 2 12
Amityville	+ 2 21
JONES INLET	—0 19
Zachs Bay	+ 1 25
Seaford Harbor	+ 2 05
Freeport Creek	+ 0 34
E. ROCKAWAY INLET	—0 06
Long Beach Bridge	+ 0 19
ROCKAWAY INLET	—0 00
Beach Ch. Bridge	+ 0 38
JFK Airport	+ 0 26

On BRIDGEPORT

Lloyd Point	+ 0 08
Cold Spring Harbor	+ 0 08
Bayville Bridge	+ 0 13
Eatons Neck Point	+ 0 03
Northport Bay	+ 0 03
Norwalk Islands	+ 0 10
Smithtown Bay	—0 03
Cranes Neck Point	+ 0 05
Port Jefferson Harbor	+ 0 03
New Haven Harbor	+ 0 08
Mount Sinai Harbor	—0 08
Herod Point	—0 07
Mattituck Inlet	+ 0 19
Horton Point	—0 20
Truman Beach	—0 42
Falkner Island	—0 13
Sachem Head	—0 10
Branford Harbor	—0 07
New Haven Harbor	—0 08
Milford Harbor	—0 07
Stratford	+ 0 27
Shelton	+ 1 36
Black Rock Harbor	—0 03
Saugatuck River	—0 01
South Norwalk	+ 0 10
Greens Ledge	—0 01
Stamford	+ 0 04
Cos Cob Harbor	+ 0 06
Greenwich	+ 0 02

On NEW LONDON

Orient Point	+ 0 27
Little Gull Is. (Race)	+ 0 12
Greenport	+ 1 04
Southold	+ 1 43
New Suffolk	+ 2 26
South Jamesport	+ 2 32
Shinnecock Canal	+ 2 33
Noyack Bay	+ 2 05
Sag Harbor	+ 0 59
Gardiners Bay	+ 0 21
Promised Land	—0 14
Montauk Inlet	—0 25
Montauk Point	—1 13
Niantic	+ 1 20
Stonington	—0 33
Noank, Mystic River	—0 23
THAMES RIVER	
Smith Cove	—0 01
Norwich	+ 0 09
CONNECTICUT RIVER	
Saybrook jetty	+ 1 10
Lyme	+ 1 24
Essex	+ 1 38
East Haddam	+ 2 41
Higganum Creek	+ 2 54

On WILLETS PT.

Little Neck Bay	—0 10
Execution Light	—0 06
Manhasset Bay	—0 01
Hempstead Harbor	—0 11
City Island	—0 03
Rye Beach	—0 28
Port Chester	—0 09
Mamaroneck	—0 08
New Rochelle	—0 24
Davids Island	—0 02

On B'WATER HB.

CAPE MAY POINT	—0 10
Miami Beach	+ 1 17
East Point	+ 0 53
Egg Island Point	+ 0 33
Cape Henlopen	—0 05
ROOSEVELT INLET	+ 0 09
Mispillion River Ent.	+ 0 33
St. Jones River Ent.	+ 0 57

On NEW YORK

Jersey City	+ 0 07
Geo. Washington Br.	+ 0 46
Spuyten Duyvil	+ 0 58
Ossining	+ 1 53
Peekskill	+ 2 24
West Point	+ 3 16
Newburg	+ 3 42

On NEWPORT

Sakonnet	—0 10
Tiverton	+ 0 21
Beavertail Point	—0 02
Prudence Is., Sandy Pt.	+ 0 10
Bristol	+ 0 10
Warren	+ 0 21
Nayatt Point	+ 0 12
Pawtucket	+ 0 21
East Greenwich	+ 0 16
Wickford	+ 0 12
Narragansett Pier	—0 08
Point Judith Harbor	—0 07
BLOCK ISLAND	
Great Salt Pond	+ 0 05
Old Harbor	—0 14
Watch Hill Point	+ 0 44

SUNRISE/SUNSET

11/14	6:48	4:40
11/15	6:50	4:39
11/16	6:51	4:38
11/17	6:53	4:37
11/18	6:54	4:37
11/19	6:56	4:36
11/20	6:57	4:35

PHASES OF THE MOON

NEW	1st Qtr.	FULL	2nd Qtr.
11/7	11/15	11:22	11/29

The Original Knight
SOLUNAR TABLES
When To Fish Or Hunt

The schedule of solunar periods for the following week as printed below has been taken from the original Knight Solunar Tables. Plan your day so that you will be fishing good areas during these times when the fish should be most active. The tables are not a guarantee you will catch fish, however.

The major periods begin at the time shown and last for an hour-and-a-half or two hours thereafter, and are in the bold type face. The minor periods are shorter in duration and lighter type.

	AM Minor	AM **Major**	PM Minor	PM **Major**
Thurs.	9:30	**3:45**	9:55	**4:15**
Fri.	10:30	**4:45**	10:55	**5:10**
Sat.	11:25	**5:30**	11:40	**5:55**
Sun.	—	**6:20**	12:10	**6:45**
Mon.	12:30	**7:05**	1:00	**7:35**
Tues.	1:15	**8:00**	1:50	**8:25**
Wed.	2:10	**8:45**	2:40	**9:15**
Thurs.	2:55	**9:40**	3:30	**10:10**

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Features:

NATIONAL SCENE ..... Al Ristori 6

Fish Talk:
NOVEMBER WINNER ..... William A. Muller 7

Surf Fishing:
YOU CAN DO IT IN NOVEMBER ..... D. W. Anthony 8

Captain's Table:
COLD WEATHER ENTREES ..... Arlene Ricca 10

Sinker Bouncing:
TRIALS & TRIBULATIONS ..... Matt Ahern 12

FLOUNDER THEORIES ..... Rich Feszchak 13

HOW SHARP IS SHARP ..... Gary Diamond 14

FISHERMAN TIPS ..... Fred Guardineer 15

WESTERN SOUND FINALE ..... Ted Keatley 16

Departments:

Tide Tables 2
Solunar Tables 2
Pass It On 4
Club News 5
Boating 5
Fishing Reports 18
Fisherman's Classified 30
Free Line Offer 32

About the Cover—

Dull hooks probably result in more lost fish than most anglers realize. Gary Diamond has something to say about the subject on page 14 of this issue.

COMING NEXT WEEK: **COLD WEATHER CUSTOMERS**

Richard Reina, PUBLISHER
Al Ristori, ASSOCIATE EDITOR
Pete Barrett, NEW JERSEY EDITION
W. A. Muller, MANAGING EDITOR
Stu Miller, ADVERTISING MANAGER
Tim Coleman, NEW ENGLAND EDITION
Fred Golofaro, EDITOR
Rich Reina, PRODUCTION MANAGER

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Pass It On...

FREE ROD BUILDING CLINIC FOR YOUNG ANGLERS

J&R Sport Center, in conjunction with the Islip-East Islip Youth Development Corporation, will be hosting a free 12-week rod building course for all young people up to 21 years of age, beginning on November 24. Classes will run each Monday from 6PM to 8PM. John "Rod" DiGiacomo, respected as one of the most innovative custom rod builders on the East Coast, will be providing his expertise, along with donating all materials for the program. While there is no fee involved, the sponsors request that you reserve a spot by phoning Mr. Feder of the Y.D.C. at 277-0976, Monday through Friday between Noon and 8PM.

YEAR OF THE COAST JOURNAL

The Marine Environmental Council of Long Island, Inc. (MECLI) has published a very informative Journal to commemorate The Year of the Coast.

Prominent Long Islanders have contributed articles regarding the importance of the marine coastal regions surrounding our Island. Interspersed are interesting photographs and other artistic expressions of the beauty and ecological significance of our coastal resources. Included, too, is a directory of over sixty organizations involved in the protection of the marine environment.

First of its kind on Long Island and destined to have historic value, The Year of the Coast Journal, which contains 36-pages in an 8½" x 11" format, may be obtained for a $1.00 tax-deductible donation from the Marine Environmental Council of Long Island.

Send request and donation to: MECLI—Year of the Coast, P.O Box 55, Seaford, New York 11783.

WILL THE REAL SEVENSTRAND CLONE PLEASE STAND UP

Sevenstrand's exciting new series of offshore trolling lures, the Clones have received a great deal of attention during the '80 sport fishing season. That fact comes as no surprise (especially to those who have fished 'em), as record catches of billfish, tuna, albacore and wahoo (to name a few) have been reported from both coasts and Sevenstrand's Clones are credited with much of this success.

But wait...Clone is not a lure, it's a series of lures from Sevenstrand that capture the true-to-life looks, action and fish-catching performance of a live baitfish—right? Well, only half right. True, Clones are an exciting new series of lures from Sevenstrand, but it's also true that there is a lure called the Clone, which by no small coincidence is just one of five lures in Sevenstrand's Clone series. In fact, if you were to walk into a tackle dealer's tomorrow morning to buy a Clone, you might be pleasantly surprised to find that you could choose between Psy-Clones, Kona-Clones, Deep-Clones, Minno-Clones or Clones. All of which are Clones with slightly different head shapes and body styles. With that settled, you should also know that all lures in the Clone series are available in twelve natural baitfish colors. All the Clones feature soft, yet durable tails which are natural game fish excitors. And all the Clones—the Kona-Clone, Psy-Clone, Minno-Clone, Deep-Clone and Clone are available rigged or unrigged. Now it's easy to understand that a Clone (the lure) is just one of the Clones (a series of lures)...good news for you, tough luck for the game fish that eats one!

For a good look at all the Clones, write for a FREE copy of Sevenstrand's 1981 Lure and Wire Catalog. Sevenstrand Tackle Corp., 5401 McFadden Ave., Huntington Beach, California 92649.

STRIPER SPECIAL PREEMPTED

Due to changes in program scheduling, the striped bass segment of "Airmail Special" will be shown on Saturday, November 15, rather than November 8 as originally planned. The ABC telecast begins at 7:30 p.m.

MONTHLY RECYCLE DRIVE

The monthly recycle drive of the Friends of Long Island will be held Saturday, November 15 from 10AM to 4PM at the Pathmark parking field on Merrick Road in Seaford—rain or shine. Look for the Ecology Flag.

Materials collected are: newspapers and magazines (tied or untied), aluminum and car batteries.

VESSELS SOUGHT BY SOUTHAMPTON COLLEGE

William Horvath of New Rochelle and Hampton Bays has donated a 37' Rybovich yacht, "Val-Jean," to Southampton College of Long Island Unversity. The sportfisherman which Mr. Horvath kept for many years in Hampton Bays for summer fishing expeditions out of neighboring Shinnecock Inlet, will be used to support the College's Marine Science Program.

President Donald W. Wilson of Southampton College stated in accepting the donation, "For some time we have been searching for a boat that would meet the needs of our Marine Science Program—a fully accredited program which has developed a national reputation for excellence. Our students are required to do extensive field and laboratory work and Mr. Horvath's generous gift will enable us to increase their exposure to different aquatic environments."

The Southampton College Boat Donation Program is now in its second

year. Both motor and sail vessels in good condition are sought to support the College's Marine Science Program and the recreational sailing program. Potential donors can find out more about the program by calling Don Aldrich at (516) 283-4000, ext. 148.

TOURNAMENT RESULTS

The results of Montauk Marine Basin's Annual Tournament of the Full Moon, held the weekend of Octboer 24-26, were as follows:

Overall winner: George Boulay, Valerie B, 42¾. Second place (Tie): Billy flood, Red Bonita, 32½; Ted Shaine, Surf, 32½.

Third place: Alex Robrecht, Fish II, 31½. Surfcasting Division: Ted Shaine, 32½.

Junior division: Alex Robrecht, Fish II, 31½.

First fish weighed in: Dino Riccio, Vivienne, John DeMaio, 21½.

Session I: Alex Robrecht, Fish II, 31½. Session II: George Boulay, Valerie V, 42¾.

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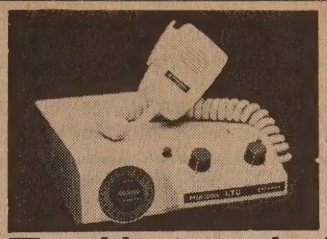

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CLUB NEWS

HUNTINGTON ANGLERS 3-CLUB DERBY

The Huntington Anglers' recently held a three-club fishing derby for bass and blues between the Mill River Rod & Gun Club of Bayville and the Harbor Fishing Club of Huntington with the following results:

First prize for bass, Dick Deasy, Huntington Anglers' Club, 9 lbs. He also won 2nd prize for blues, 6 lbs. 8 oz. Deisy fished with Dick Hoffman on the Tulagi II.

First prize for blues—Bob Snyder, Harbor Fishing Club, 14 lbs. 10 oz.

Second prize for bass—John Ambrosio, Huntington Anglers' Club, 8 lbs. 12 oz.

Tom Wilenski, President of the Mill River Club weighed in a 5½ lb. blue. A hearty breakfast was held at Harbor Boat Club.

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BOATING

SAFE BOATING COURSE

Flotilla 11-5 of the U. S. Coast Guard Auxiliary announces a public education class dealing with the arts of boating skills and safety. THis will be a 16-lesson course, and is the longest known such course, as given by the Auxiliary. Eleven lessons take the student through the art of boat handling to the knowledge of radio-telephone communication. The last five lessons are devoted to the physical aspect of plotting courses on nautical charts. The course starts on Monday, February 2, 1981 and will be given every Monday evening at 8PM. The course will be held in the club house of the Diamond Point Y.C., located at 1350 Paedergat Avenue in the Canarsie section of Brooklyn. A nominal fee of $25 will be charged each student to cover books, charts, and instruments which are necessary for this course.

Need more info? Call Public Education Officer, Harry Frankel, any business day from 9:30 a.m. to 4:30 a.m. at 212-868-8853, or write to him at the Yacht Club.

NATIONAL SCENE
with Al Ristori

FIGURELLI CONTINUES TO PRESSURE N.Y. D.E.P.

Lou Figurelli, who's done such a fine job in protecting the marine resources around Staten Island, isn't letting up in his efforts at all. Finding out about an October 9 public hearing on the New York Department of Environmental Conservation's publication "A Challenge for the 1980s" at the last moment, Figurelli rallied the troops and brought out an impressive showing for DEC Commissioner Robert F. Flacke. It wasn't too long ago that Lou successfully sued the DEC to enforce laws barring commercial bunker fishing off Staten Island, an accomplishment that earned him a special award from the Rod & Gun Editors of Metropolitan New York at their annual dinner in March. The Natural Resources Protective Association of Staten Island, which Figurelli founded and is president of, is getting stronger everyday and certainly now has the attention of the DEC.

At the meeting Figurelli emphasized the need for both more conservation law enforcement on Staten Island and the need for cooperation between New York and New Jersey in enforcing the regulations. The proximity of state lines makes it easy for violators to run one way or the other to avoid being caught. Raritan Bay had what was probably the greatest concentration of fluke to be found in the mid-Atlantic area this summer, and the fish pirates really cashed in despite the ban on dragging in the bay. It was quite simply a matter of lack of personnel on both sides with which to do the job. When one New Jersey arrest was about to be made at night, the netter rammed the police boat and left two officers floating in the bay. Fortunately, they were rescued in the morning. The New Jersey law is particularly weak because it isn't illegal for the fish pirates to cut their gear loose when a patrol boat approaches. That is a violation in New York.

The "Challenge for the 1980s" plan looks promising at first glance, but we'll have to look into it further before getting too enthusiastic. The Marine District tail has always been wagged by an upstate dog in the DEC, and marine recreational fishing problems have been largely ignored. It's about time that attitude changed, and Lou Figurelli feels that this document may well indicate an increasing awareness of marine problems in Albany.

Emergency Striped Bass Study Progresses

The Emergency Striped Bass Research Study, authorized by the Chafee Amendment to the Anadromous Fish Conservation Act, is continuing to make progress—though it will be some time before any answers can be expected from this effort. Six stock assessment projects are being conducted on a Federal/State funding basis of two to one. Total NMFS funds committed to these projects are $271,563. Samples of eggs and larvae were taken from most major spawning areas this spring, and the Hudson River project involved monitoring of twenty-two individual fishing operations during forty-two days of field work in order to determine the incidental catch of striped bass. However, the New York work on juvenile recruitment and stock assessment has been impeded by "personnel staffing difficulties and delays in equipment delivery."

Another important effort involves a regional Sea Grant study to determine the economic importance of the Atlantic coast striped bass fisheries. This two-year project involves coordinated regional research at four universities. New England is being handled by Marilyn Altobello and Norman Bender at the University of Connecticut, while New York and northern New Jersey are the province of Jon Conrad at Cornell. Southern New Jersey, along with Delaware, Maryland, and Virginia will be covered by Ivar Strand, Terry Smith and Virgil Norton at the University of Maryland. The first phase of the study is to assess the economic impact of the commercial and recreational striped bass fisheries from Maine to North Carolina. Impact is defined as the amount of income and employment generated by striped bass fishing. The second phase involves estimation of the economic value of these fisheries. The value is what the fishery is "worth" to the nation. According to the proposal, the commercial value is that of the price of the fish above the costs of production. In the recreational fishery it is measured by the net value of the fishing experience.

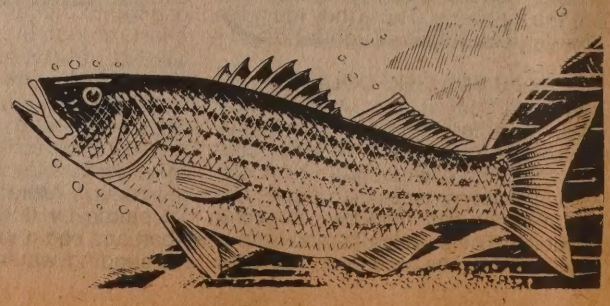
A third important project involves the impact of contaminants on striped bass. The first part of the study is being done at the NMFS Lab in Narragansett, Rhode Island and includes young stripers hatched from stock in the Hudson, Choptank, Elk, Potomac, James, Rappahannock, Chickahominy, Roanoke, and Cooper Rivers. Aquatic contaminants, such as PCBs and DDT, are being evaluated to determine how such chemicals affect the growth and survival of juvenile striped bass hatched earlier in the year. A report is expected very shortly.

The U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service's National Fisheries Research Lab at Columbia, Missouri is on schedule with its analysis of striped bass flesh taken from those same rivers. This is a comprehensive test for multiple residues of environmental contaminants including PCBs, DDT, oil and coal industry contaminants, herbicides, heavy metals, etc. The information obtained will be compared to such factors as length, weight, and bone development of striped bass. Such comparisons should help clarify the effects these chemicals have on survival, growth, and reproductive success of the species.

If you'd like to look into the development of this Emergency Striped Bass Research Study, you can obtain the "Plan of Action" (a 25-page pamphlet) by writing to the Regional Director, NMFS, Federal Building, 14 Elm St., Gloucester, Massachusetts 01930. Copies of the informational bulletins issued from time to time are available by writing to Dick Schaefer, NMFS, F/CM1, Washington, D.C. 20235, or by calling (202) 634-7454.

1980 Striped Bass Reproduction Is Very Poor

The "Emergency Striped Bass Study Newsletter" had some bad news in its latest edition. It reported on a recent letter from James B. Coulter, Secretary of the Maryland Department of Natural Resources, informing NMFS that the relative abundance index (striped bass spawning success) for 1980 in Chesapeake Bay was the second lowest in twenty-seven years. At 1.9, it was better only than the 1.9 of 1959. However, the latter figure was of little consequence, as it was surrounded by the great spawning years of 1956 (15.2), 1959 (19.2), 1961 (16.9), and 1962 (12.2). Things just kept getting better in those days, with poor years being interrupted by great success in 1964 (23.5), 1966 (22.1), and 1970 (30.4). We're still living on the great impact of that 1970 year class, as that was followed by only fair years through 1974—and mostly poor years since. Only 1978, with an 8.4 index, could be rated even fair since 1975. Since most of our area is dependent on migratory stripers from the Chesapeake, our problem is quite clear—and Coulter's figures would indicate that we haven't even begun to see the worst of what is yet to come!



FISH TALK
with William A. Muller

NOVEMBER WINNER

CONGRATULATIONS NANCY WELLS! Not only are you our November winner of a Shakespeare Ugly Stik, but you are our first female winner since the contest began. It is so good to see more and more women getting so deeply involved in fishing. It is a sport for all ages, and for most types of fishing circumstances, males and females can participate equally. Nancy writes: "In one of your articles you wrote about surf casting for stripers all winter at power plants such as the one at Lilco in Northport. Why do bass stay in the warm water plume instead of joining other stripers in the fall migration? Also, since the bass in the warm water must feed on other fish during the winter, is it true that baitfish also remain in the vicinity of the plant's hot water plume? Why do so many of these bass suffer from fin rot? Is it because of the crowding of so many fish into the area, or does the outflow of the plant contain something harmful to the bass? Why are most of the fish caught in the hot water shorts or small legal-sized fish? Is this because of overcrowding too, or do the larger fish tend to migrate south instead?"

ONE BY ONE! First, there are many readers who have written in with questions about fishing the hot water in winter, but few have summarized that interest as well as you have via the questions you have asked. The high level of interest in hot water fishing has prompted us to run several winter articles about just that, but curiously, the interest in the topic among our readers seems to go beyond the interest in catching them. Your letter is again a good example of that also! Many readers are just plain curious about the situation even though they have no desire to fish there. The first question of why the bass stay in the effluent is a difficult one to answer quickly. However, in essence, the fish are there because they become trapped in a limited warm water area after the water around the plume has cooled off considerably. Now, that's an over-simplification. You suggest that the bass should be migrating instead. Actually, they are migrating when they become involved in the plume. Actually, your first and last questions are related. You see, scientists believe that larger fish tend to migrate first, although a significant number of larger fish may never migrate and instead will winter over in local waters (not the plume). This apparently happens all over the northeast. Scientists are not quite sure why this happens, but they do suggest that bass, especially larger bass, do not spawn every year. Thus, when they are not going to schedule into spring spawning, they do not migrate. Generally, the bulk of the larger bass come through the area when the water is still quite warm and the last slugs of bass to migrate through are the smaller ones—especially shorts. Again, scientists are not too sure why this occurs, but they suggest that the smaller fish are growing faster and have fewer places to put the fat tissue. Thus, they must feed longer into the fall in order to develop enough fat reserves to last through the winter.

MOVING THROUGH. Now, as the smaller fish migrate through our area (mostly Hudson fish moving back towards the Hudson) in late November or early December, they hit the hot water plume. Baitfish have also hit the plume and some schools may already have established residence (some species of bait require rather warm water and may be trapped in the plume by late October). The bass find a ready supply of bait and begin to feed. Within the next few weeks the surrounding water has cooled off too much to allow for a sustained migration to the river, so they stay where they are. However, there are some larger bass in the hot water, but they are not always close enough to the beach so that fishermen can take them. In addition, there are far more small fish and these little guys are eager to eat. The combination produces the illusion that there are only small fish in the plume.

MORE THAN BASS! However, there's more than bass in the plume. Each year any number of small blues are reported. These fish seem to be most abundant in the early winter and less plentiful by late January and February. Mullet are usually around in some numbers and, of course, these fish become food for larger predators. There are also quite a few spearing and sand eels in the hot water, although their presence isn't always very obvious. Bunker are sometime visitors and again, aren't always obvious. There have also been jack crevalle in the hot water during several winters. Then there are killies, which are bait for the predators and white perch which have been in the hot water every year to the best of my knowledge. The white perch, however, are most abundant in the spill-way behind the dam and, of course, this is off limits for most power plant fishermen. I'm sure there is also a sprinkling of flounder, bergalls, and the rest of the slower swimming bottom tribe present, too.

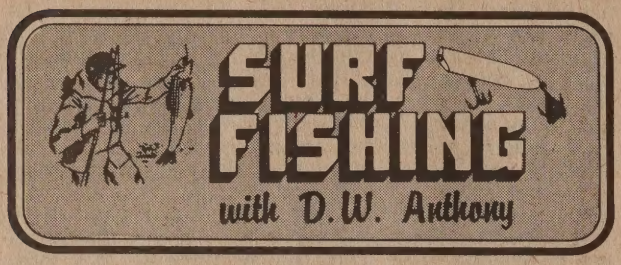
WHY BASS? Why are the bass such a dominant species in the plume? To answer that question, we need to look at the fish itself and appreciate not only what it is, but how it survives. Blues, jacks, and many baitfish have a rather limited and precise adaptation to the environmental conditions around them. Their ability to tolerate low temperatures is much more restricted than bass and, in general, most cannot tolerate low oxygen, chemical pollution, and organic pollution as well either. Bass, on the other hand, are anadromous fish (spawn in freshwater and feed in saltwater) and therefore have a much wider tolerance for changes and variations in their environment. To begin with, temperature variation in the rivers of the East Coast are severe. Temperatures can range from the eighties in the summer to the thirties in the winter and the bass have to be able to tolerate both. Thus, through evolution they have adapted to these extremes. In winter, when the water gets very cold, the bass do not go into shock. Instead, they become very lethargic and almost comatose. They will remain in that condition until the water becomes warmer. They can respond this way and thus survive both in the rivers and in the sea. This explains why bass can winter over in the sea, even as far north as Massachusetts. Blues and other species go into shock when the water gets cold and thus their existence in the hot water plume is very restricted. If the winds change the shape of the plume, if the power plant shuts down for a short time, or if they attempt to chase baitfish into the surrounding cold, it is possible that the sudden temperature change could kill them and rather quickly. Bass, on the other hand, have some "breathing room" so to speak. Should they wander out of the plume they will not go into shock and they can get back into warmer water easily. Should they linger too long in the cold water, they'll become very lethargic until the plume again shifts towards them. Bass are very hardy, too. Once they reach a certain size, they can handle pollution and other environmental disruptions much better than other species. They can also eat almost anything, living or dead, and this gives them a lot of latitude too, whereas other species that require a specific type of food could starve. These factors explain why blues are more abundant early in the winter. Probably, many die within several weeks of the entrapment.

BIG FISH, NOW AND AGAIN. From time to time, fishermen who regularly fish the hot water, report catching fish from the low teens to the mid-twenties. Why? It is very hard to say with any authority, but several guesses probably aren't too far from the truth. The big fish probably stay quite far off the beach where the water is deeper and the temperature more stable. Clearly, although the water will be warmer than the rest of the Sound it will not be anywhere as warm as the water close

(Continued on page 11.)

Most surf fishermen think of June and October as the two best months to take a trophy bass and there is good reason to agree with this point of view. After all, these are the months when the bulk of the bass population is supposed to be moving through our area. Still, it isn't the only month, as good fish are taken in July, August, September, May, and even April. But what of November?

November is usually a month that's mostly frosty; not



YOU CAN DO IT IN NOVEMBER

cold enough for the snow to fly, but usually blustery and uncomfortable for night fishing. Still, there are those days that are mild and without too much wind and to further help the eager surf fishermen, there are days when the bass feed almost as eagerly during the daylight as they do at night during other months. It's fairly easy to explain this since boat traffic has dwindled to a fizzle and the migrating fish are desperately trying to put on the fat that they'll need to carry them through the winter. But are there enough big bass to make a hard effort from the surf fisherman worthwhile?

There are different points of view on this. Talk to some and they'll tell you that most of the good fish have gone through by early November and although there are plenty of schoolies around in most years, the biggies will be few and far between. This is good logic and we can't disagree outright. However, there is another school of thought. This view holds that big bass are almost ways few and far between anyway, so why balk at it now? Furthermore, recent evidence suggests that many of the big fish do not migrate to the spawning grounds each and every year and many winter over up and down the coast in nearby deep water. Thus, these reluctant giants are around and they often make the most of schools of bait that come inshore late in the year.

Okay, if we accept the last premise as having some truth to it, then how do we go about catching them? To begin with, the dedicated beach rat will have to accept the fact that he'll have to fish at night and that oftentimes the weather will not be comfortable, to say the least. However, as stated above, there will be enough days when the bass will feed in daylight. Those cloudy days combined with a sun that's low in the sky due to the season means that the daytime really isn't that bright. Although the winds are commonly northwest in November thus flattening the south shore surf into boring calmness, there are days when there is an onshore wind and such a wind may blow schools of bait up onto the beach. Northeasterly winds that don't blow too strong may accomplish the same job without dirtying the water beyond fishable limits.

What about techniques? Most of the surf fishermen who seek bass late in the season agree that the fish are moving about too much to fish one spot that is known as a producer. In daylight, for example, these pros suggest that we cover a lot of territory looking for signs of feeding bass or moving bait. They warn that the presence of feeding bass doesn't have to be given away by leaping bait and swirling bass. Often a few birds gently feeding or a school of bait moving smartly along the beach between the offshore bar and the sand is all the signal you'll get. Most do not make blind casts over dead water, but a few say that there can be a bass anywhere and if you can't find any bait or feeding fish, then blind casting is a good alternative.

Many late season fishermen believe that bait is the answer to taking a good fish—especially along the south shore. The blues are gone and the eel becomes the number one bait. If you get a pick-up now it is almost certainly a bass. The baitfishing allows the angler the opportunity to fish around the clock and almost in any weather from bright sun to snotty rain. The baitfishing, they also say, can take a bit of the endlessness out of the pursuit for a late season bass. Just pick a likely spot such as Gilgo, Cedar Beach, Jones Beach West End II, Point Lookout, the Rockaway jetties, etc., and throw that eel out. Bring a good book or newspaper to read and a thermos of hot coffee. If you can find another "nut" with a similiar desire for a bass, take that person with you. What with good reading, hot coffee or soup, and some good conversation the hours pass rapidly. On the north shore baitfishing is probably not the best ticket since there is none of the crashing surf that lures big fish close during daylight.

For all the success of live eels, bunker, and mackerel as big bass baits, most fishermen still prefer artificials, especially in the fall when game fish are supposed to be more aggreable to hitting lures. What do the experts say a lure fisherman should do to take a good bass so late in the year. Well, the daytime/nighttime relationship still exists: a fisherman can take a bass in the day now on a lure just like a bait, but the likelihood of doing so in bright sun isn't encouraging. What tips can the fellas who have done it so late give to the rest of us?

First and foremost is to use big plugs—leave the small stuff home now. In the late fall, bass of all sizes will hit big plugs simply because the need to feed heavily and put on fat reserves is so great. We've seen three to five pound bass hit the biggest darters and bottle plugs now!

What plugs should I carry? In the day, carry large tins such as the four ounce Krocodile spoon as well as the biggest pencil poppers, large Polaris poppers, and a few of the largest conventional poppers. It might also be worthwhile, believe it or not, to carry one darter and a bottle plug. This may seem odd, but there are days when big fish want a swimming plug in the daytime for reasons known to them. A darter, furthermore, can be used as a skip plug during the day and sometimes this action drives big game fish crazy.

Each of these artificials has its own "best" technique—if there really is such a thing. I mean most surf rats will tell you to work a tin slow and steady for bass. Get that tin close to the bottom, they'll say! Still, I have seen a jerky retrieve work when all other approaches failed and I've seen days when a fast retrieve was the only one that would take fish. I saw one fella at Jones Beach a few years back in mid-November take one bass after the other by dragging the tin in the sand. No action on the tin, but a lot of fish on the beach. Pencil poppers are a terrific lure, but it takes patience and stamina to use them: patience because the lure is barely retrieved as the rod is whipped about to make the plug dance. It just isn't natural to retrieve that way and if the mind should wander, the retrieve picks up quickly; stamina because the arms begin to ache quickly when whipping a big stick about. Nonetheless, the lure works and sometimes works when other poppers won't. The pencil popper that is made to dance along the surface is a great imitation of a wounded fish trying to regain enough strength and stability to resume normal swimming below the surface. A hungry game fish just can't resist an "easy" meal.

Conventional poppers and Polaris poppers seem to be a lot easier to work at first glance, yet there is a lot of subtlety to the techniques with these plugs as well. Most poppers will sink and there thus can be the tendency to retrieve too quickly. The right kind of rod is an asset here. A fairly stiff-tip rod will allow the fisherman to pop the plug at the surface without retrieving too much line to do so and thus speed up the retrieve. Many rods in use today are well suited for throwing light plugs such as Rebels and RedFins, along with worms and other light baits, but present problems for the fishermen trying to work a two ounce popper properly. It might be a good idea to spruce up that old rod for this daytime fall fishing. Yeah, the one that's almost as thick at the tip as it is at the butt—the one Uncle Moe gave you! Of course I'm exaggerating, but a stiff rod will help. A conventional popper should be retrieved so it regularly pushes water ahead of itself,

creating a common. Once in awhile, a large splash works by drawing the attention of nearby predators to your plug.

I remember a guy who used to fish out at Montauk a number of years ago. He was a great one for taking large bass from the south side late in November. In fact, I remember him taking six big bass from the town beach in early December...but that's another story. Anyway, he took a lot of big fish on poppers—especially late in the season when he'd fish more daylight. He would throw that plug out and stop the line from going out before it hit the water and he had his retrieve in motion as the plug hit. One day I asked him about that and he told me that on a given tide the bass may hang around an area. As the hours pass, they get to know everything that's in the area. If a plug hits and sits for a second, they can see it and if it doesn't match what they know is in the area, they'll ignore it when you begin the retrieve. However, he said, a plug that's splashing as it hits can be taken for something they have seen before, couldn't catch, and is now in trouble. That changes the game and they'll often hit without a careful look-see!

It's hard to say whether or not his theory is true, but the technique worked for him. He was also the guy who put me onto taking fish in daylight on big "nighttime swimmers." He once took a fish and had several rises to a darter that was retrieved rapidly and then occasionally skipped from wave top to wave top. His explanation was that when squid or herring are in the area that they dart around and often you can see them squirting this way and that in the wave crests. The darter in the right color imitates this well. The right colors? Well, according to this chap pink or yellow if there's squid, and blue with white or silver if its herring. The bottle plug is my idea after I saw a guy take some nice fish about 9AM on a yellow bottle when other plugs did nothing. I can't offer more suggestions since there haven't been enough situations that have presented themselves and allowed for experimentation.

Through this discussion we've ignored the north shore, but that doesn't mean that the north shore offers no opportunities for taking big fish in late season. On the contrary, the Hudson fish that are moving towards the river down the Sound provide a great chance to take a trophy. The problem in the Sound, however, is that most of the baitfish will have already left and that presents problems in terms of finding the fish. In the Sound, the old approach of going to places where you have caught them before works. Bass are creatures of habit and as they move to the west, they'll stop off at "bassy" spots to look for food. Unlike the south shore, the food will be grubbed from the rocks and bars. Eels, crabs, and clams will probably make up the bulk of the diet for big fish with a fair number of blackfish thrown in for spice.

As with the south shore, daylight is often as good as night when there is cloud cover. The outgoing tide seems best on the whole, and sunrise and sunset periods best. Large poppers and big swimmers at night will do the trick, but as with other locations it takes a lot of patience. You may have to fish for many days and countless hours before you get that hit, so make the most of it and try to be ready. On the north shore you can lure a big bass with a seven inch RedFin or Rebel and many times, the water isn't deep enough to fish with anything else. You'll probably take a fair number of school fish with the big RedFins and Rebels, but that'll only add to the fun. Furthermore, with the Hudson stocks up and the Chesapeake stocks down, it's likely that your chances are better in the Sound than elsewhere. There are plenty of spots to fish. This late in the year no one bothers you at town beaches even though they are closed during the summer to non-residents.

Who knows, since we can't predict the future, maybe our efforts will pay off and November might just do it for you and me!

SINKER BOUNCING

(Continued from page 12.)

six hours to do before.

We continued to drift. I got a nice ten pounder and Artie nailed one more about eight pounds before we hit into a lull. We were out of the fish. Back we went to the buoy and began another drift. We got three more out of that and it was Artie who caught them. Not big—about six to seven pounds.

"This is more like it," I said to Artie as once again we ran back to the buoy.

"Get 'em while you can; they won't bite much longer when this tide changes."

"How do you know?"

"That's what the chart says. We got maybe twenty minutes of good fishing."

And I'll be darned if he wasn't right. Came the tidal change and Al picked up a nice fish around fifteen pounds. And that was it. We could have been fishing the Sahara for all the cod we caught after that.

We then headed in and as I sat filleting our catch, a nagging question popped into my head. "Hey, Artie. I know that act you put on before was for my benefit, but how come we spent six hours catching two 'rats' on the high-spot if you knew the fish were in deeper water? How come you didn't check your chart earlier?"

"Easy. I wanted you to know you don't know a damned thing about codfishing."

That's my boy.

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In Part One of this article, I explained that cold water fish such as cod, pollack, haddock, halibut, whiting and ling lend themselves to a variety of cooking methods. They can be used for the complete meal: i.e., appetizer, soup and entrees.

Through this article, I have attempted to provide a smattering of international gourmet recipes designed to

CAPTAIN'S TABLE

with Arlene Ricca

WINTER ENTERTAINING—PART II
COLD WEATHER ENTREES

make your dinner parties a success. Below you will find a listing of entrees for you to choose from.

French Style Halibut Steaks

Ingredients:

4 individual halibut steaks
juice of 1 lemon
salt and pepper
1 egg, beaten until frothy
flour
3 to 4 tbsps. olive oil
2 cloves garlic

Squeeze the lemon juice over the steaks and let stand for 10 mins. Sprinkle with salt and pepper. Dip steaks into beaten egg, then into flour, shaking off excess. Heat oil with garlic and cook until garlic begins to brown. Remove garlic and cook steaks in oil over medium high heat until lightly browned on both sides, about 8 to 10 mins.

Spanish Fillets With Wine

Ingredients:

4 halibut fillets, skinned
salt and pepper
1 wine glass of dry white wine
1 wine glass of boiling water
1 sweet red pepper, diced
1 cup medium white sauce
2 tbsps. buttered crumbs
2 tbsps. grated cheese

Tie or skewer the fillets in rolls; put in a buttered baking dish. Season. Mix wine and water and pour over the fish. Cover and bake at 400° for 25 mins. Mix red pepper with white sauce and pour over fish. Sprinkle with crumbs and cheese and brown under the broiler.

Baked Pollack Steaks

Ingredients:

4 pollack steaks, 3/4'' thick
salt & pepper
2 tbsps. lemon juice
4 tbsps. butter
2 onions, sliced
2 - 1 lb. cans tomatoes
1/4 tsp. dried oregano

Lay steaks in a single layer in a buttered baking dish. Sprinkle with pepper, salt and lemon juice, and dot with 2 tbsps. butter. Bake at 350° for 25 mins. Make a sauce. Saute onions in 2 tbsps. butter; add tomatoes, oregano and 1 tsp. salt. Simmer uncovered for 30 mins. Pour sauce over fish and bake for 5 mins. longer. Serves 4.

Baked Cod With Nut Sauce

Ingredients:

2 lb. piece of cod
salt, 1/4 cup olive oil
1 clove garlic
1/4 cup pine nuts or blanched almonds
1/4 cup minced parsley
2 large onions, chopped
1 - 1 lb. can tomatoes
pepper
1/2 tsp. sugar

Sprinkle both sides of fish with salt and put in a shallow baking dish. Heat oil and add garlic and nuts; saute until golden. Remove garlic and nuts from oil and crush them into a paste, gradually adding parsley with a bit of oil from skillet. Add onions to oil and saute until golden. Add tomatoes to onions and simmer for 5 mins. Stir in nut paste. Season with salt and pepper. Add sugar and pour over fish, covering it completely. Bake at 350° for 30 mins. Serves 6.

English Fish and Chips

Ingredients:

2 to 2½ lbs. halibut or haddock fillets
1 cup flour
1/2 tsp. paprika
1/4 tsp. salt
1/8 tsp. pepper
3/4 cup beer
oil for deep frying

Skin the fillets and cut into slices 1/2 to 3/4 inches thick; then cut slices into chunks 3 by 5 inches. Make a batter by mixing dry ingredients and slowly stirring in the beer. Beat until smooth. Heat oil in a deep fryer to 375°. Dip each piece of fish into batter, drain briefly. Deep fry a few pieces at a time until golden brown, turning as needed, for 3 to 4 minutes. The ''chips'' are French-fried potatoes—yours or frozen and cooked. Serves 4 to 6.

Greek Baked Halibut with Vegetables

Ingredients:

2 lbs. halibut steaks, 1¼'' thick
1 medium size onion, minced
1 bunch of scallions, chopped
1/4 cup olive oil
4 celery ribs, minced
3 carrots, sliced
1 lb. spinach, chopped
1/2 cup minced parsley
1 cup canned tomatoes
5 mint leaves, chopped
2 garlic cloves, minced
salt and pepper

Saute onion and scallions in oil until limp, but not browned. Add celery, carrots, spinach, parsley, tomatoes, mint, garlic, and salt and pepper to taste; simmer for 15 mins. Spoon half of the vegetable mixture into a buttered baking dish. Cover with fish steaks and spoon on rest of mixture. Cover and bake at 325° for 1 hour. Serves 8.

Spanish Baked Fillets

Ingredients:

2 lbs. pollack fillets, skinned and cut into 6 serving pcs.
1/4 cup olive oil
1 onion, sliced
2 tbsps. flour
salt
1 cup asparagus tips
2 cups sliced tomatoes
2 tbsps. butter
2 tbsps. grated Romano cheese

Put half of the oil in a shallow baking dish and cover with onion. Dust fish with flour and salt. Arrange on the onion. Arrange asparagus tips on top, then top with sliced tomatoes. Dot with butter and sprinkle with cheese. Bake covered at 350° for about 30 mins. or until done. Serves 6.

Canadian Fish Steaks

Ingredients:

2 lbs. halibut steaks
juice of 1 lemon

1/2 tsp. salt
1/8 tsp. pepper
1/2 tsp. dried marjoram
1/2 cup thinly sliced green onions
1/2 cup chopped celery
2 tbsps. butter
1/2 tbsp. caraway seeds
1/2 cup white wine

Put halibut steaks in a shallow baking dish. Squeeze on the lemon juice. Season with salt, pepper and majoram. Let marinate for 1 hour, turning once. Saute green onion slices and celery in the butter for 5 minutes, or until tender. Spread over fish steaks. Sprinkle on caraway seeds. Bake at 400° for 10 mins. Pour on the wine and bake for 10 mins. more. Serves 6.

French Cod Steaks

Ingredients:

2 lbs. cod steaks, 1 inch thick
1/2 lb. mushrooms, thinly sliced
3 tbsps. butter
2 small tomatoes, peeled, seeded & chopped
1 clove garlic, minced
salt and pepper

Saute mushrooms in butter until just limp. Add tomatoes and garlic. Heat through and season to taste. Put fish in a fairly close-fitting baking dish. Sprinkle with salt and pepper and spoon mushroom sauce on top. Bake uncovered at 400° for 25 to 30 mins. Serve as is, or with shrimp sauce. Serves 4 to 6.

Dutch Whiting Casserole

Ingredients:

8 individual whiting fillets
2 cups court bouillon
4 tbsps. butter
3 tbsps. flour
1/4 cup Dijon-style mustard
1/4 tsp. paprika
salt and pepper
1 large onion, thinly sliced
1½ lbs. potatoes
milk and butter for potatoes
1/2 tsp. grated nutmeg
5 tbsps. lemon juice
1/2 cup buttered bread crumbs
1/2 cup grated mild cheese

Poach whiting in court bouillon. Drain fillets and reserve the court bouillon. Make a mustard sauce as follows: melt 3 tbsps. butter; stir in flour smoothly. Gradually add reserved court bouillon, stirring to make a smooth sauce. Bring to a boil, stirring constantly. Season with mustard, paprika, and salt and pepper to taste. Saute onion in remaining tbsp. butter until soft and transparent. Boil potatoes until tender; peel and mash, mixing with enough hot milk and butter to give a fairly soft consistency. Season with nutmeg. Butter a shallow baking dish and build layers of half of the fish, half of the onion slices, half of the lemon juice, half of the mustard sauce and half of the potatoes. Repeat layers, topping with potatoes. Sprinkle top with crumbs and cheese. Bake at 350° for about 30 minutes; slide under the broiler until top is brown and bubbly. Serves 4 to 6.

Fish With Green Sauce

Ingredients:

2 lbs. haddock fillets, cut into 6 serving pcs.
1/4 cup olive oil
1 clove garlic
1/2 cup minced parsley
2 tbsps. flour
1/2 tbsp. salt
1/4 tsp. ground cuminseed
dash of pepper
3/4 cup fish stock
2 tbsps. light cream

Brown fish slowly on both sides in hot oil. Remove to a platter and keep warm. Add garlic to oil and saute until golden. Remove garlic and crush in a mortar. Slowly work the parsley into the garlic, then blend in flour, salt, cuminseed and pepper. Pour off all but 1 tbsp. oil from skillet. Add parsley mixture to oil in pan and blend well. Add stock and cream and cook, stirring until thickened. Pour over fish. Serves 6.

*As in Part I, you may substitute one type of fish for another.

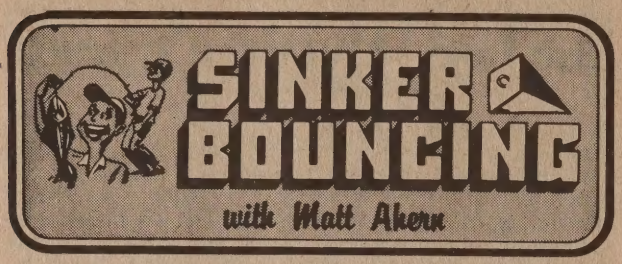
Fish Talk: NOVEMBER WINNER

(Continued from page 7.)

to the dam. Thus, these stripers probably spend most of their winter in a rather lethargic state. However, from time to time the patterns of the winds or changes in the rate of flow of the plume, may move greater quantities of warm water further out in the Sound. The larger bass may confuse this phenomena with the normal increase in water temperature that takes place in the spring. However, although they become more eager feeders, their range is limited by the cold water temperatures around them. They may, however, go into a short feeding binge—especially if there are substantial numbers of mullet in the plume. When the normal flow of hot water returns, the fish go back into winter hibernation at the edge of the plume.

WHY FIN ROT? Nancy, you pose several interesting possibilities and who's to say which, if any, are correct. The cooling units of the power plant are cleaned with a chlorine solution and sulfuric acid which then empties into Long Island Sound. Although these chemicals are diluted, they are still probably concentrated enough in the Sound so as to be a problem for those species that are sensitive to water quality such as small blues. The presence of the chemicals, although not immediately dangerous to the bass, may generate some amount of stress on the stripers. This we can't be sure of. However, **"pollution"** in the sense of all-encompassing water quality violation has been repeatedly suggested as a cause for the fin rot, yet there just isn't a high level of organic pollution, which might foster the growth of fin rot organisms, present in the hot water. No, pollution doesn't seem to be the cause here. You suggest crowding, and naturally the crowding of any animal in a restricted space is going to promote contagious disease. Yet, in some years there hasn't been much crowding—as evidenced by the small catches of fishermen! Yet in those lean years, there was still a higher incidence of fin rot than in the rest of the bass population.

WELL, WHAT THEN! Again, we can only make an educated guess. Sure, the chemicals put stress on the bass and stress tends to make an animal more susceptible to illness. Sure, the bass are more crowded (usually) in the plume than elsewhere and at other times. But, these two items alone cannot, in my opinion, satisfactorily explain the fin rot—at least not all of it. However, they do, I believe, tip us off to the overall situation. STRESS! Medical research teams working in various parts of the world have confirmed that high stress does make the individual more susceptible to becoming ill. The cold water is another stress. Even in the center of the hot water, the temperature will not be totally stable. Changing tides, winds, outflow rates, and air temperatures will conspire to raise and lower the temperature of the plume. These rather rapid changes in temperature, although not sufficient to kill the bass, do put stress on them. The temperature fluctuation stress, combined with the cleaning chemical stress, combined with limited types of food available, I believe conspire to render the bass more susceptible to disease. Fin rot, which in many ways is like the human cold, is a natural. It is a minor disease that fish can recover from and the organisms that cause it are always present in the water. Several years ago, when the great year classes of Chesapeake fish began their first migrations, the virus disease called Lymphocystis was quite common among bass in the Sound and especially during those winters on the bass that remained in the hot water. In recent years, very few cases of that disease have been reported simply because there are far fewer bass to transmit the disease from one to the other.



CODFISHING TRIALS & TRIBULATIONS

Artie Leidecker reeled in his cod bait and, with a show of disgust solely for my benefit, tossed the remnants overboard. He then lay aside his rod, gingerly seated himself on an upturned bait bucket, and glowered at the distant shore line. Little Al Dunn, fishing at the bow, dropped several cracked skimmer overboard. I let out a heart-felt sigh and for want of something better to do, turned to Artie and asked: "How come you're not fishing?" For several moments he continued to survey the shore line, then turned and said in a clearly exasperated voice: "You did it to me again, didn't you?"

When my reply was not immediate, he glanced toward the bow. "Hey, Al!" he called. "Sixty years fishing with this guy...you'd think I'd learn, wouldn't you say?" Al cheerfully added fuel to the fire. "Don't ask me," came the reply. "I got two cod."

Two cod—and "rats" to boot. And this the culmination of six boring hours for three dedicated codfishermen. Disappointing codfishing it certainly was; and until then, one of the poorest trips I could recall. I could not blame Artie for grumbling, but I felt the meager results weren't my fault. I admit the trip was my idea and all that, and that I should have listened to a better codfisherman than I'll ever be; but who among us can with any degree of certainty say how fish will react from day to day? Here today, and gone tomorrow certainly applies to bottom fishing.

Three days earlier my intentions were honorable enough when I phoned Artie to report cod were in on the "high-spot" south of Jones Inlet's Buoy Two. Plenty of cod action, I said. Guaranteed. My cagey buddy was not impressed. "No way," replied the raspy voice I know so well all these long years. "Can't be. It isn't even the third week of November. You know those fish don't hit into there until then." In my selfish desire to get out there, I foolishly ignored the objection and insisted if he failed to take advantage of the good fishing, he was a bigger fool than I thought. "I'm telling you the guys are knocking them dead. I got it through the grapevine."

That was the clincher. It was easy after that. The one thing Artie can't refuse is an opportunity to go winter codfishing—even if to do so is against his better judgement. So, after a few arrangements, which included Al Dunn, I hung up and spent the next several days sweating it out.

And here we were, out codfishing in mid-November, aboard Artie's "Echo," anchored over the "high-spot's" southeast corner, and doing a miserable job of it. And here, too, was good old Artie acting true to form.

Those few boats which shared the area with us for several hours had long since departed. In the distance, to the southwest, one lone die-hard party boat continued its drift for a spell before its skipper too decided to seek greener pastures. We were all alone.

"Let's pack it in," I said to Artie. "This is ridiculous."

"Not yet...not yet. You give up too easy. Those fish are here somewhere. Let's check my chart."

I suppose now would be as good a time as any to tell you about Artie's chart. Its range covers an area from the Southeast Grounds offshore of Jones Beach, south to a spot known as East of Cholera, thence west through the Cholera Bank, continuing on through Scallop Ridge and the Tin Can Grounds, then south again to offshore Sandy Hook into Sea Bright. There is no notation for 17 Fathom Bank, which Artie says is merely an eastward extension of the rocky Sea Bright Grounds. The chart is homemade and is the effort of many years.

I am rarely given an opportunity to check it over myself, but occasionally, as in this instance, it happens. I knew that its notations, water depths, etc., were in various hues: red, blue, green, and purple. Observations as to tidal conditions over particular fishing areas were given, as well as how cod react at certain stages of tide—all coinciding with weather and wind conditions, water temperatures, and time of year. This translation is done through those various colored inks. One hitch, though. The necessary key to decipher this rainbow of intelligence is unknown to me; but I'm positive that chart has helped Artie Leidecker to become the best local codfisherman I know.

Artie lay the chart on the cabin flooring and we knelt on all fours, and with heads together, we pored over its symbols. "See," Artie said, pointing with a thick finger, "here we are—the high spot. Fifty-nine feet at low water, and sixty-five to seventy surrounding us. I doubt if this high spot varies more than six inches from one end to the other."

"So?" I inquired.

"Simple. It means the water temperature is the same throughout. And right now, that water temperature is too warm for cod. I'll bet it's close to sixty degrees. That's what the chart says, anyway." He held up a silencing hand. "Yeah, I know. The guys caught cod here last week—but that was last week. Probably a freak cold current came in and the cod with it. Something like what happens at Montauk during summer. But that's not doing us any good now. The problem is: where did the fish go? Let me think."

So, taking the hint, I left him to his chart and joined Al Dunn to relate what was going on. We chewed the fat for ten minutes or so and then Artie appeared.

"Remember that broken piece of skimmer bottom where the airliner blew up ten, twelve years ago?" I nodded. "Well, there's between seventy-five and eighty feet of water there. Maybe we ought to look it over."

So Al and I brought in the anchor and Artie headed the "Echo" southwest for about a half-hour until we arrived in the general area of our destination. There was plenty of sliced skimmer for bait, but not enough whole skimmer to use as chum, which meant that anchoring was out—which was just as well for time was fleeing and to draw cod to a chum line might take more time than we had left. Drifting was the order of the moment, and with that in mind, I brought out the sash-weighted "fish" buoy and lay it within easy reach. I hoped the fishing gods would find our efforts worthwhile.

The current was stronger here than expected and I changed my eight ounce bank sinker to a diamond sinker of ten. The drift rate was faster than I liked, too, but yet not so bad that it caused difficult fishing.

This is a problem many drift fishermen encounter. It is easily solved by using additional weight; but there comes a point of no return. I would rather fish with one sinker—even if it is a sixteen ouncer—than two of eight ounces each. The combined weight of two sinkers may equal the total of one, but together they do not produce the same result when drifting. I recall one time fishing the Sugar Barrel and using twenty-four ounces of lead to hold bottom. I caught cod, but I'm positive I could have doubled my catch if I could have used but one sinker.

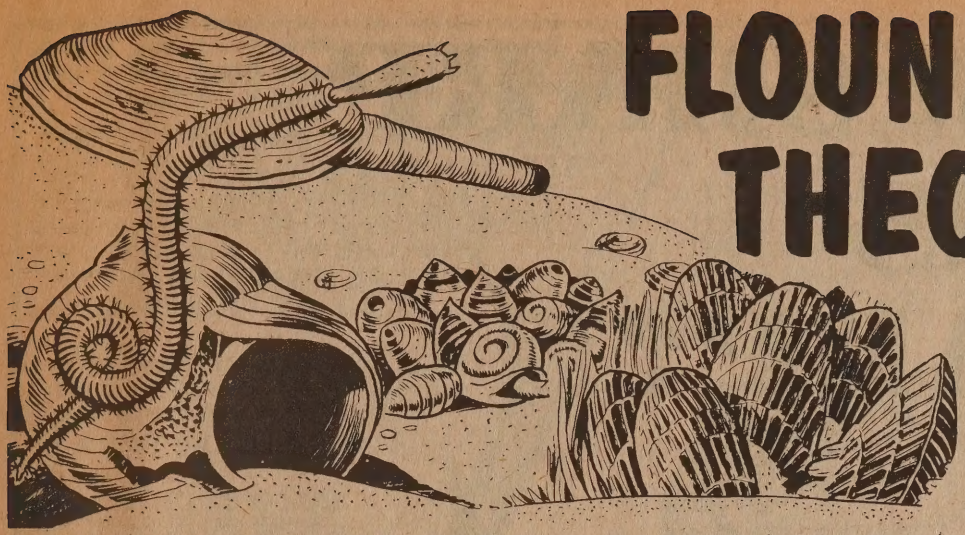
These thoughts were going through my head when Artie drew first blood.

"Gotcha!"

I tossed over the buoy, quickly reeled in, grabbed the gaff, and stood alongside, lending moral encouragement. Then Al, fishing the bow, hooked into a cod. Two fish coming up, and there I was—stuck with the gaffing honors. Al's cod turned out to be small and he lifted it aboard unaided. But Artie still continued to struggle with his fish and it took several more minutes to winch it to the surface. I stuck the gaff into an easy twelve-pounder.

We had accomplished in a half hour what had taken

(Continued on page 9.)



FLOUNDER THEORIES

by Rich Feszchak

Many of you are probably saying to yourselves right now, "Another flounder article...just what we needed." If you are a regular reader of The Fisherman magazine and have also read the Flounder book published by The Fisherman, you are proably already catching a good amount of fish. However, I hope to put to you some ideas that may help to fill in some missing pieces of information and make those catches even better.

To begin with, the best boat from which to fish for flounder, is a small, but safe rowboat. In this age of large center consoles, the little boat, because of its extreme ease of handling, can easily outfish its big brother. The boat should be double anchored across, or at least quartering, the current. The bow of the boat should always be facing the wakes from any river or bay traffic. I would be remiss here if I did not also say that double anchoring any boat could be dangerous under certain conditions, and that the boat should have a rather large beam and not be overloaded. The reason for the double anchoring is that it will keep the boat in one position and not spread the chum over a wide area as the boat moves back and forth with wind and current. If there is any question as to your ability to hold in the current, use your large anchor in the bow of the boat and possibly a mushroom anchor in the stern or the side. If you have large, especially heavily weighted chum pots, they will also act as anchors and keep the boat quite steady.

Having a list of old ranges or spots that have proven productive in the past is always a good place to start. If you do not have these ranges or have just started flounder fishing, start collecting them as soon as possible. Special situations, of course, may change these spots slightly. For instance, a wind blowing across a channel would probably mean the better fishing spot would be on the up-wind side of the channel, especially during a fall tide. The reason for this is quite obvious. Any little tidbits of food would be swept off the flat and into the channel. This, however, is not the only special situation that will occur. Always keep a mindful eye on who is catching where, and why. Half an hour is long enough in one spot to know if there are any fish around to be caught.

Much has been written on the question of chum. Although corn and rice might work as attractors in a very slow current, in my opinion the best chum is the lowly bank mussel. It is a natural forage for flounder and is probably second to none for the attracting power of its odor. My second choice for chum would be ground up and frozen clam bellies. Especially if they are readily available as waste product in your area.

When I fish I use two chum pots. When I arrive at a fishing spot, I smash up the mussels in the pots with the blunt end of an old baseball bat. I do not, however, crush them too finely. This way I get an initial surge of pieces of chum when I drop the chum pots that is not too heavy. After about ten minutes, I lift one pot, throw in a few more mussels and crush them a little more; but I will not lift both pots at once unless I am leaving the area. This method gives me a steady small flow of chum, attracting the flounder as close to the boat as possible. It is imperative to watch the flow from the chum pot to see if you need to move it or to readjust where your bait is in relation to your chum line. You must fish right in the center of your chum, and as close to the pot as possible. To find out if any fish are around, I always attach a few rigs directly to the chum pots. This lets you know very quickly if the fish are there and also, since you have to pull the chum pots up every few minutes anyway, you might as well pull some fish with it. Although mussels are a bit of a bother compared to opening a can of corn, if it came down to a wager, I would put my money on the chum pot properly loaded with mussels.

Up until a few years ago, I did not think the color of one's sinkers made any difference. I now carry with me red, yellow and white sinkers which I use under different bottom conditions. I don't know exactly what percentage this helps, but under certain conditions it's certainly worth a try.

Another novel idea is the use of food dye for clam strips, squid strips or mussels if they are being used as bait. I take yellow and red food dye with me, and small plastic containers in which to soak and dye my bait for a few minutes before it is used. I suspect that using the different color bait, one that has a good contrast with the bottom, enables the flounder to see it much easier.

Blood worms are probably the very best bait for use on the hook. Again, I think it is because they are one of the flounders' natural forages. I usually take four or five dozen blood worms and about twelve dozen or more regular night crawlers on a flounder trip. After I have used up all the blood worms, many times I will continue to catch effectively on the night crawlers. They should, however, be changed every couple of minutes because they have a tendency to bleach out in saltwater. Again, night crawlers would not be my first choice for on-the-hook bait, but certainly are a reliable back-up.

Probably in all my years of fishing, nothing has made as much of a difference in my flounder-catching ability as putting split shot right near the hook. Even though there is enough weight on the rig to keep it on the bottom, in strong current the hooks with the bait on, plane up slightly. Putting the split shot on near the hook assures keeping the bait right on the bottom, and right near the flounder's mouth.

All of these ideas are neither new nor original with me. I have collected them from various sources and other fishermen who have experimented and have passed on their findings to me. Always observe, take notes and experiment, even when fishing for the little flounder. You might try one or more of these ideas, along with some that you already have yourself, and create your own program for flounder fishing.

HOW SHARP IS SHARP?

by Gary Diamond

Hawg bass, bluefish, trout, weakfish, carp, tuna and sharks will feel the strike of hook better with a filed, triangulated point.

Any angler worth his salt will tell you that you'll hook and land more fish with a sharp hook than a dull one; but how do you determine if yours will do the job?

The first thing you must understand is—factory sharpened hooks are not sharp enough. During shipping, they will rattle and vibrate together, which results in the point becoming rounded or dull. All one must do to find out if his or her hook will penetrate the bony structure of a fish's mouth is to draw it across your fingernail. If the point digs in, it is usually sharp enough to do the job it's intended for. If the hook slides easily across the surface of the nail, the point is too round to effectively hook a fish.

Several years ago when I first started plugging for big blues with light tackle, I noticed that my percentage of hook-ups averaged about thirty percent when compared to the amount of good strikes. This bothered me quite a bit until someone showed me why I was losing these fish: dull hooks. Being somewhat of a skeptic and having a tackle box full of brand new saltwater plugs that I was convinced were sharp, I ignored the dull hook theory. My next bluefish plugging trip resulted in fewer fish than at any other time—but man, did I get the strikes. The fish would grab the plug, leap straight into the air—and spit it right out. Believe me, this was a frustrating trip, to say the least.

That very night, I went to work with a mill file and triangulated each and every hook in the tackle box. I use the file because it does the job quick and easy without the mess of an oilstone. It also ensures that the edges of the hook are razor sharp, which makes all the difference in the world when you set it in a concrete-textured mouth of a big blue.

A few days later, I set out to field test the dull hook theory. The hook-ups increased to about ninety percent, which was considerably better. Far fewer fish were lost during their aerial antics and the cooler took very little time to fill. The triangulated hooks would slice right through the bony structure of the mouth and stay embedded, while the rounded edge hooks barely penetrated.

If you're having difficulty putting the hook in a fish, and want to improve your odds, break out that old mill file from the tool box and get to work. You'll be amazed just how dull those new hooks really are.

FISHERMAN TIPS

BY FRED GUARDINEER

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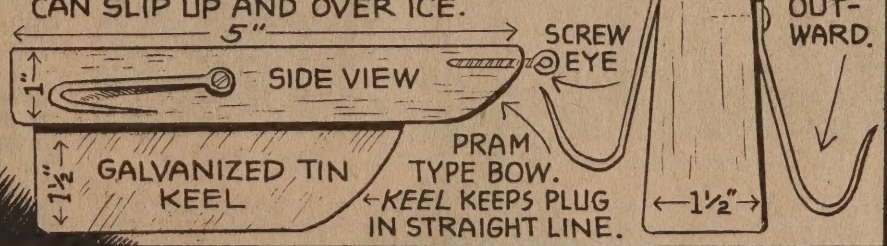
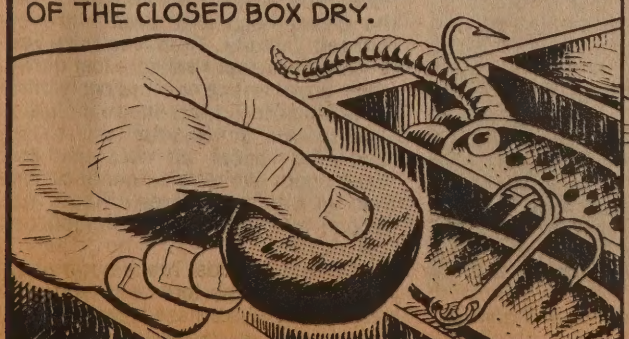
DUCK HUNTERS WITHOUT RETRIEVER DOGS, BOATS ETC. OFTEN CARRY A SMALL TELESCOPIC CASTING ROD AND PLUGS TO CAST OUT AND REEL IN A DOWNED BIRD FLOATING IN DEEP WATER. FISHING LURES CAN GET THE JOB DONE BUT OFTEN SNAG ON VEGETATION OR ICE... A HOME-MADE ALTERNATIVE, CUT FROM 1X4X5 IN. PINE BOARD, GETS THE JOB DONE BETTER.

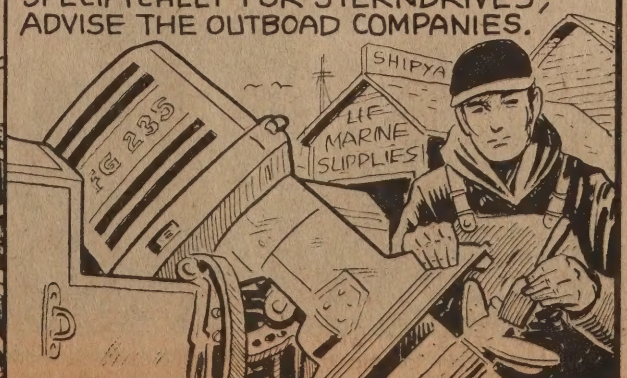
BARBLESS HOOKS SNARE DUCK AND SNAG LESS THAN TREBLES. *"RETRIEVER PLUG"* CAN SLIP UP AND OVER ICE.



BEFORE STORING YOUR TACKLE BOX AWAY FOR THE WINTER PROTECT ITS CONTENTS FROM DAMPNESS AND RUST BY PLACING A CHARCOAL BRIQUET IN ONE OF THE TRAYS. THE CHARCOAL WILL ABSORB MOISTURE AND KEEP THE INTERIOR OF THE CLOSED BOX DRY.



PROPELLOR CARE: DON'T PAINT ANY PROPS WITH COPPER-BRONZE ANTI-FOULING PAINT *EXCEPT BRONZE PROPS.* FOR STERN DRIVES USE ONLY PAINT MADE SPECIFICALLY FOR STERNDRIVES, ADVISE THE OUTBOAD COMPANIES.



Western Sound Finale

by Ted Keatley

I dislike writing these late season columns because they are a reminder that winter is fast approaching. Frankly, I hate cold weather like the Devil hates holy water. I can make it through Christmas, but unless I were able to go to Florida, I would be just as happy if January, February and March were dropped from the calendar.

Actually, November fishing can be quite pleasant if the weatherman is halfway cooperative and you dress properly. The two most important items of apparel are thermal underwear and a good windbreaker. My preference for the latter is foul weather gear since it not only stops the wind, but keeps out spray and rain as well.

In recent years, I have had a boat with a Navy top. Hiding from the wind behind the canvas also does a lot to make a November day on the water more pleasant.

As this issue reaches readers, the fall blackfishing on the deep water reefs should be at its peak. Most fish have moved offshore and are schooled up for the trip to winter quarters.

My usual spots at this time of year are the reefs northeast of Buoy 24C or the rocky areas between Buoy 11B and Eatons Neck. Buoy 24C lies several miles off Greens Ledge Light at the western end of the Norwalk Islands. Water with a depth of thirty to forty feet normally is the most productive. If you can position the boat over boulders or a sharp dropoff—so much the better.

Many recommend an anchor bridle. The party boats are pretty much forced to do this to prevent horrendous tangles as the passengers fish elbow-to-elbow.

To bridle a small boat, you would determine the direction of drift and then put out two anchors twenty to thirty feet apart upcurrent or up-wind from where you want to fish. When you drop back on the scope, the two anchors do not allow the boat to swing from side to side with the wind and tide.

I have mixed feelings about bridling the anchor. I usually wind up with the boat holding steady over bottom which I do not want to fish. Blackfish tend to congregate in a small area and the difference between go and no-go can be only a few feet.

Another alternative is using a stern anchor. In shallow water, this is a good procedure. As a matter of fact, I would strongly advise it if you wish to cast to a particular rock. However, in deep water, it is difficult to keep one anchor from tripping out if there is a sea running. In addition, freeing one of the anchors in forty feet of water can be a major problem when you are ready to leave unless you have about six miles of line.

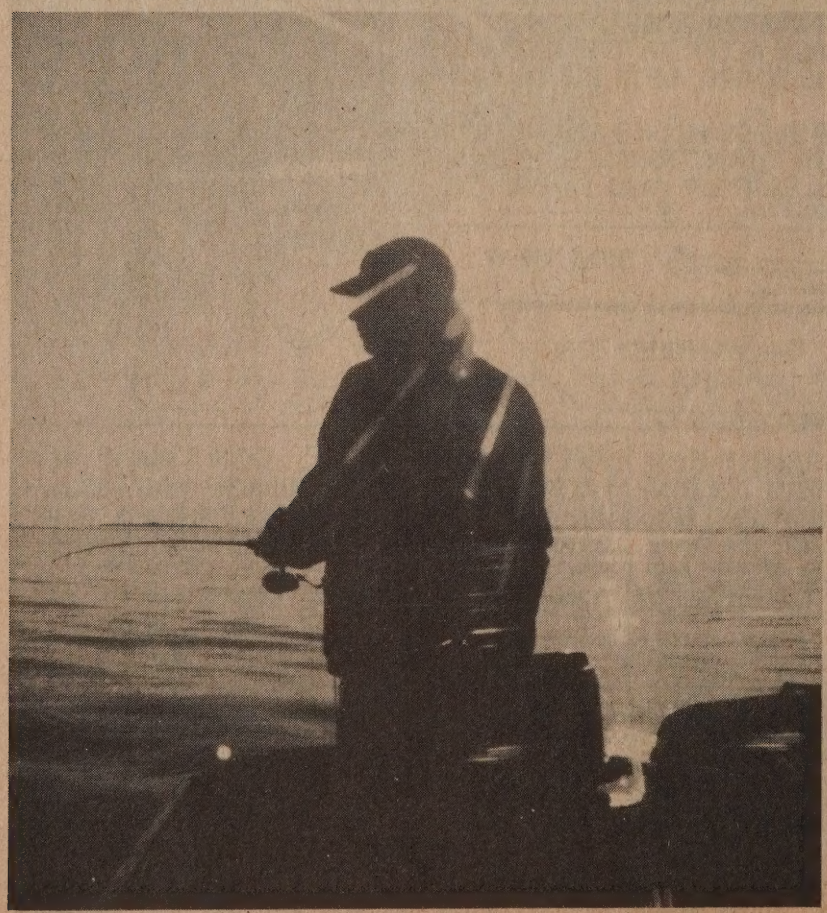
As a result, I tend to rely upon a single anchor line snubbed up as short as possible to minimize swinging.

Since few boats have an anchor chock on the center line, the pull usually is to port or starboard, a condition which accentuates the tendency to swing with the wind and tide. This can be overcome to a large extent by tying a large loop just forward of the cleat. Put the loop in the port and starboard chocks and it will tend to position itself so that the knot and rope are aligned with the center line of the boat. Cleat the line in the usual manner before making the loop. If there are any waves of consequence, the anchor line could jump out of the chocks.

Since I wrote at some length on blackfishing in my October column, there seems little point in repeating myself.

However, I have a few things to say on preparing green crabs for the hook. Everyone seems to be writing about blackfishing at this season and most articles include green crab baiting instructions. One contained a "recipe" which left me scratching my head. The writer recommended that the claws, legs and back shell be removed initially. Then, the body was to be cut in four pieces. I wouldn't want to undertake this project with a set of surgeon's scalpels, much less a fishing knife. So far as I am concerned, about all that the end result could get for you would be the Man of the Year Award from the Bergall and Affiliated Baitstealers Association.

My technique is quite simple. I use half a green crab on the hoof and a 6/0 Sproat hook. I will admit that I miss a lot of bergalls and small



November fishing can be quite pleasant if the weatherman is halfway cooperative and you dress properly.

blackfish, but I don't want them anyway.

To prepare a bait, I turn the crab on its back and cut it in half with a sharp knife. If you cut from back to front, you get a much cleaner cut. Legs, claws and back shell remain exactly where nature placed them. Any medium to large blackfish would have no trouble with this bait. However, it does slow down the thieving bergalls.

I might also add that I like fairly large crabs, not the half-dollar size. Some fishermen use whole small green crabs, but I have found that a cut crab seems to provide faster action.

If you like good blackfishing, nothing can beat the deep water reefs in late October and early November. I recall a trip to 11B about ten years ago when fourteen dozen green crabs provided only a few hours of fishing. Dutch Pinto, Mike Finnelli and I left Mamaroneck at 7:30 in the morning and we were out of bait before noon. On the way back, there were so many fish in the bottom of Mike's twenty-two foot Aquasport that we had to kick blacks out of the way to find room for our feet. Don't get me wrong! Every trip is not like that. Nevertheless, a bag of fish which requires two men to carry it from the dock is far from uncommon.

There is also the possibility of late season bluefish in early November, but this is chancy. However, I do put out a chunk of mackerel while blackfishing and often have a black and blue catch when I return to the dock. One November day in the early 1970s, Charley Gambino pulled alongside us while we were blackfishing on the Steeple Reef off Mamaroneck to lament that he had been unable to buy any green crabs. He had nothing for bait except a couple of frozen mackerel. He left for K buoy grumbling to himself with little expectation of any bluefish action, only to find a school of alligators there... He took nine fish and lost several more. He apparently caught a school of migrating blues moving through the area, because I tried it on the following day and couldn't get a hit.

November often sees some good action with striped bass on their way to the Hudson River. The last spots producing fish usually are Prospect Point and Execution Light. However, around 1960, it was not uncommon to have bass at the Stamford Cows and Todds Point just to the west until Thanksgiving. In 1979, the fishing was pretty well over in the Sound by the end of October.

Finally, we come to frostfish, that catch-all designation which covers smelt, whiting, tomcod and ling. None of these cold water species ever appear before the middle of October.

There have been few ling in recent memory and whiting have not been plentiful for about fifteen years. Smelt disappeared in the late 1960s and there has been few showings since then.

The fall blackfishing on the deep water reefs should be at its peak.

So, my nomination for Frostfish of the Year goes to the tomcod. They have been fairly plentiful in recent seasons and should be with us this fall. However, they are extremely cyclical and often virtually disappear for year on end.

Flounder fishermen, particularly those who are fishing in the late afternoon, usually are the first to discover them. I recall instances where I was catching more tomcod than flounders as the day approached.

Flatfish rigs and baits are fine for tommies. However, constant attention is required as they are light hitters and proficient bait stealers. Sometimes they only can be felt if you keep a finger on the line.

They often bite best at night. Some years ago, it was common to fish along the Hen Island shore of Rye's Milton Harbor on mild November nights. Of course, when you are out in a small boat on a November evening, mild is a relative term. As December approaches, they move into the mouth of a stream to spawn. They sometimes can be taken along the seawalls approaching the Mamaroneck River by "potting" and with spears.

Potting meant replacing one end of a barrel with netting similar to that of a lobster pot. The barrel was placed with the opening downstream where deep water was close to shore. A favorite Mamaroneck location was the old sand and gravel company dock just above the present launching ramp. I have seen a half bushel of fish pour out of the barrel after an overnight set at the peak of the run.

It often was possible to stand on the sea wall and jab them with a long-handled frog spear as they came by. Old-timers say that tommies go blind at spawning time. They do develop a white film over their eyes and if you watched them bumping along the stones of a sea wall, you would agree that their sight is at least impaired.

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"FISHING FUN FOR THE ENTIRE FAMILY"
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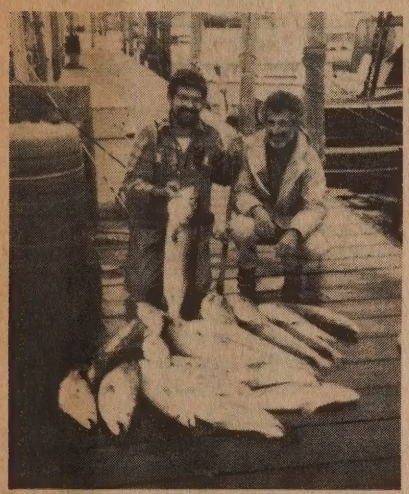
Paul Giampetro returned to Montauk aboard the "Viking Starship" with this pool winning 50 lb. cod.

BAIT & TACKLE SHOPS

MONTAUK
★ BEST BET ★
MIXED BAG

The **Marlin Fleet** reports that they are making good catches of porgies with a mixture of cod, pollack and blackfish mixed in. The showing of green cod is in the 25 to 30 lb. range on green crabs. Sunday's trip accounted for 65 blackfish, two of which were over 12 lbs. with lots of 6 to 7 lb. fish. The **Marlin IV** is now on a daily sailing schedule for blacks, cod and pollack and free green crabs are available for customers on the boat. The **Marlin V** continues to enjoy solid catches of bluefish, mainly at Cartwright. Check ad for details.



Dick Blum and Ron Levy with a mess of weaks and bass taken on light tackle aboard John DeMaio's Montauk charter boat "Vivienne."

The charterboat **King Wayne** reports that Buddy Miles and friend of Queens, caught 62 blackfish up to 13 lbs. off Little Gull Island Saturday using green crabs. Sunday's charter scored with 85 bluefish SW of Block Island trolling umbrellas. The boat has a few choice weekend dates open for the remainder of the season.

Capt Frank of the charterboat **Free Spirit** has asked us to say thank you to his customers for a good year and that he hopes to see them again in 1981.

George Buzzetta of Massapequa fished Shagwong Thursday and using George's special umbrella rig pulled a 40 lb. striped bass, a 19 lb. blue and 2 schoolie bass. George is having the big bass and blue mounted.

Charterboat **Julie III** fished a two man charter Tuesday. Paul LaVacca of Servus Reproductions fished his last trip of the year and marked it with 37 blackfish from 5 to 9 lbs. on green crab working Gull Island. Capt Ron wishes his patrons and friends a healthy and happy New Year.

Charterboat **Barracuda** called to say that a few bass and lots of bluefish are still being caught and that he will be sailing until November 18th. Capt Gary says he still has a few openings available.

Jim Delano, John Stonitsch and Warren Morris display a cod, striper and blue taken on diamond jigs aboard the Montauk open boat, "Viking Skipper II."

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NIGHTCRAWLERS•CLAM & BUNKER CHUM
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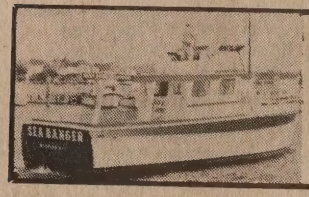

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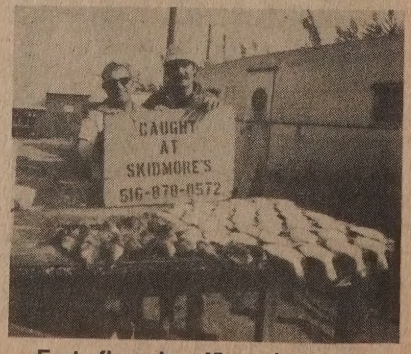
SOUTH FORK
★ BEST BET ★
BLACKFISH

SHINNECOCK

Thom at **Speck's Bait and Tackle** reported decent flounder fishing in Shinnecock Bay. Best spots have been Middle Pond, Ponquogue Bridge and the Canal. Most of the flatties average 1/2 to 1 lb., but some bigger fish have been mixed in. Thom looked over a nice catch of 53 flounder made by Steve and Julie Stehlik Sunday. They fished Moriches Bay and took the fish on sand worms. Thom asked us to notify his customers that he will continue carrying worms into the month of December.



Forty flounder, 45 sea bass and 2 blowfish were taken by Matt and John Viol northeast of buoy 42. Photo courtesy of Skidmore's Fishing Station.

"Packy" Collins, Yankee pitching ace Rudy May and Mike Macchiorelli show some of the big stripers they took on the October moon at Montauk. Photo courtesy of Gone Fishing Marina.

The **Capt Clark II** reports great blackfish on the ocean wrecks, during the early part of last week. The blacks have gone from the bays and Sunday saw very slow fishing on ocean wrecks which has prompted Capt Clark Bellows to end the sailing season. This week Capt Clark would like to remind customers that November 14th will be the last sailing date for th year and wants to thank all his customers for their patronage. He will begin flounder fishing in late March and is looking forward to a good 1981 season.

MORICHES BAY

Bill at **East Moriches Bait and Tackle** said that flounder fishing continues good in Seatuck Cove. Nice catches being made also at buoys 36, 42, 43 and 44. For bigger fish, Bill suggested the Quogue canal. Blood worms remain at the top of the bait list. Whenever the weather permits boatmen troll teen-sized blues on umbrella rigs outside of the inlet.

Larry at **L&M Marine** described the flounder fishing in the bay as great when the weather cooperates. As an example of the hot fishing, Larry described the catch of 300 keepers up to 2 lbs. made in the Quogue Canal by Anthony Romano, John Raffaele and Joe LoMonaco, Jr. The trio used worms. Larry said there are good sized fish spread all over the bay and that bloodworms, sand worms and dyed clams will take fish on any moving water.

Bobby at **Hi-Way Fishing Station** called to say that Robert Stahl and his three children Lisa, Robbie and Bobbiann, along with Uncle Kurt Muller of Huntington Station boated 129 keeper flounder from ½ to 1 lb. Sunday fishing buoy 44 with red dyed

★CAPTREE★

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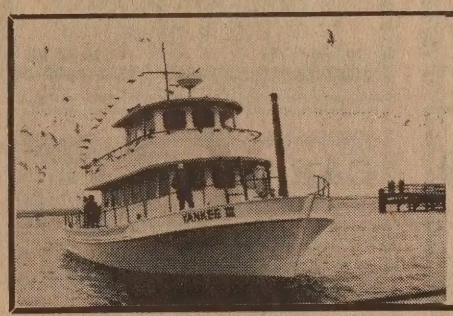

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Moriches Bay witnessed some good fluking back in June, as demonstrated by this fine catch made near buoy 42. Anglers Wayne, Darren, and John Kropp, Sr. and Jr., left from Skidmore's Fishing Station.

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Dale Alexander headed this party on an October shark trip aboard the "King Wayne." Two nice makos and a pair of blue sharks were south of the Point.

clam and blood worms, no chum. Bobby says the area has had a great flounder season nearly all year long with many 2 pounders caught.

Skidmore's Fishing Station tells us that the flounder action has been very good at the Coast Guard Station south of buoy 39 and 35. Saturday's catches were down to high winds, but most boats that tried had 30 to 40 flatties. Sunday fishing was better. Howard Daderian and Paul Nalbendian scored with 102 flounders fishing the Coast Guard Station in the morning and buoy 35 in the afternoon, all on bloods. Both tides produced with incoming being best.

GREAT SOUTH BAY
★ BEST BET ★
BLACKFISH

OAKDALE

The freshwater scene has been creating more interest around these parts this past week. Dave at **J&R Sports Center** said that Steve Stokes of Oakdale fished every day last week in Bubbles and Rattlesnake Creek and averaged 2 to 3 trout per day in the 12 to 16 inch range. The trout have been a mixture of browns, brooks, and rainbows. Dave had a pair of 15 inch brookies himself on Thursday using night crawlers. As for flounder, few fish being taken in the State Channel on bloodworms, but no word on any fish off of Heckscher. Dave travelled to the Shinnecock Canal on Friday and used sand worms and red-dyed clams to take 70 small flatties.

CAPTREE

Bobby at the **Captree Bait Station** reported that boatmen have been getting a fair pick of flounder in the State Channel near Amityville using worms and clams. Some flounder also being taken from the Captree Overlook Pier. Big blues still on the offshore wrecks as of last week and good blackfishing on the Fire Island ocean reef.

Capt Charlie Kennedy of the **Capt Bob Joseph** reported a good Tuesday on blackfish. Sunday was a disaster due to the terrible conditions they had to fish under with wind and mountainous seas. Things bounced back on Sunday however with a catch of 12 cod from 5 to 12 lbs. on clam. This was on a wreck. This is a good start for the cod season said Charlie and they caught even though there was still a swell on Sunday. There were also some blacks and sea bass mixed in. Charlie says he has a good inshore blackfish wreck as a back up which he can fall back on until the cod fishing gets to be in full strive. A couple of blues were taken on Sunday also and they will linger until the water gets too cold for their comfort.

The **Capt Scotty** boated several cod during this past week running from 6 to 30 lbs. Bluefishing was a wipe out

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CAPT. LOU III

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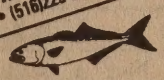

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Captain Dennis Kanyuk of the Freeport charter boat "Marie III," displays a 10 lb. weak that took a clam bait under the Meadowbrook Bridge.

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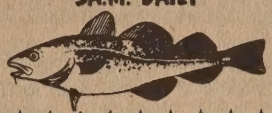

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Saturday but several fares decked 50 good blues on Sunday. The boat is now fishing Fire Island wrecks and the skipper expects mixed catches of cod and bluefish up until the time the water cools and the bluefish leave and the cod move in in better numbers.

BABYLON

Freddie reported from **Augie's Bait and Tackle** that things have been pretty quiet due to the windy weather. The private boat Little Women returned with 15 nice keepers from the State Channel on Sunday. Fred knew of a few blackfish taken on the Kismet Reef during the week and when boats can get out, there are still plenty of big blues outside the inlet for jiggers and umbrella rig trollers. Lots of fish around the 16 lb. class were weighed in during the week.

SOUTH SHORE BAYS
★ BEST BET ★
FLOUNDER

SEAFORD

Lon of **Wanser's Tackle Shop** described the flounder fishing as pretty good. He recommended the 1st and 3rd Wantagh bridges, Zachs Bay and Haunts Creek and suggested worms along with corn or clam chum, Chumming is important. Due to the winds we've been having, fishing has been good one day and slow the next, but there are plenty of flounder in the area.

From **Pop's Fishing Station**, John reported a catch of 25 big flounder for Urij Kolodi and Alex Drobisherick. The pair fished east of the 3rd bridge with worms and most of their fish were in the 1¼ to 2 lb. range, although one flattie tipped the scales at 3 lbs. A Mr. Tut had 65 nice flounder fishing west of the 1st bridge using worms and mussel chum. Both catches were made during the week, but wind slowed things down over the weekend.

BELLMORE

The singing dog at **Merrick Tackle** tells us that the flounder fishing has been quite good at the S turn in rowboat alley in Merrick Bay all of this past week with the fish running ¾ to 1 lb. and very chunky. Blood worms have been best on both tides with chumming a "must". The dog says try to fish the deeper holes.

BALDWIN

Jack at **Arthur Street Fishing Station** reports that a lot of flounder were caught this past week in Middle Bay off the Boces School, especially in the deep holes. Worm and clam bait both worked well on both tides and many keepers were brought in in the 1 to 1½ lb. range.

This 5 lb. fluke took a combo bait off Merrick Point. It was landed by Charlie Catalano while fishing aboard the Bellmore private boat, Papa B. Subscriber photo.

WEST END SOUTH SHORE
★ BEST BET ★
FLOUNDER

FREEPORT

Lou's Fishing Station reported that the open boats **Captain Al** and the **Starstream** took some cod over the weekend. He knew that flounder fishing in the area was real good late in the week, but wind hurt the flatfish action over the weekend. Lou looked over a fine catch of blackfish made on an offshore wreck made by the **Aloma II** and he also relayed word of good school bass action on the Tin Can Grounds.

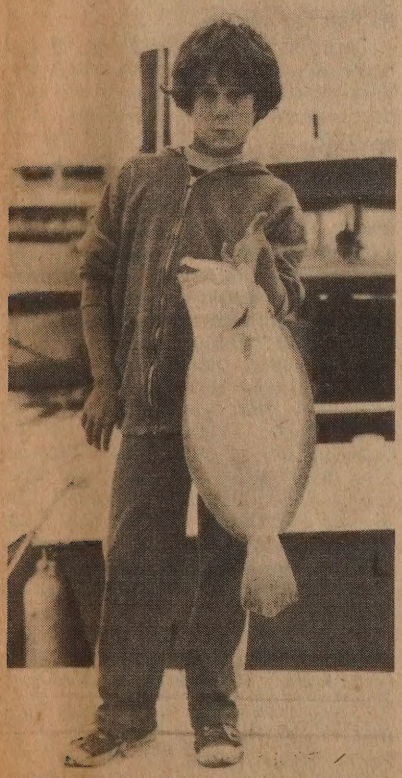
The **Blue Fin Fleet** worked on flounders Sunday locally and also a bit to the east working mainly on the deeper spots and also in Merrick Bay. Sunday's pool hit 1½ lbs. with most fish running ½ to ¾ lb. A half dozen ran from 1 to 1¼ lbs. Worm and clam was the hook bait and high hook was Massapequa's Lenny Mischel who scored in the mid 40s.

The **Capt Lou Fleet** reports that on

their full day trips, Tuesday saw John DeRosa of Valley Stream bag up with 100 flounders, 60 of which were keepers from ½ on up. Frank Marranello of Middle Village scored with 52 keepers. Roger Parentane Jr. of Valley Stream accounted for 51 keepers. Capt Mike called it an excellent week of flounder pounding. Thursday had the finest kind of flounders, all large fish from ¾ to 2 lbs. High hook was in the 50s that day. The boat is fishing local waters. On the half-day boat Thursday afternoon saw Mr. and Mrs. Harold Roseth of Ozone Park take 40 keeper flounder. The half-day trips have been doing well and Saturday and Sunday morning's trips were especially productive.

The **Starstream II** accounted for 5 cod fish Saturday under very unfavorable fishing conditions along with some small pollack and a few sea bass. Anthony Ricci of Merrick, age 14, took a 25 lb. cod. The Capt. is working wrecks. On Sunday 15 cod were caught up to 25 lbs. It was also a scattered catch of blues, blacks and sea bass. Richie is concentrating on wreck fishing since the dogfish abound on open bottom.

The **Capt Al** reports that Saturday and Sunday fares had some cod, blacks, blues and ling. Some of the cod ran from 20 to 25 lbs. Conditions were quite poor on the weekend and the skipper says that with some calmer weather the results should be a whole lot better. Even though, there were some fish caught at every drop. Al is concentrating on wrecks where he is also getting good catches of blackfish. There seem to be scattered cod at every drop and by the weekend with calmer weather and stiller waters, catches should be much improved.



This 6 lb. doormat was taken near the Meadowbrook Bridge back in September by 11-year-old Joseph Guenkel. Subscriber photo.

Rick DelGreco, Chris Romita and Mauro and Tony Digirolamo used S&G umbrella rigs aboard Captain Ronnie Lepper's "Kim" to take 125 blues and bonito back in September.

ISLAND PARK

Charlie of **Beckman's Tackle Shop** in Lynbrook said that flounder have improved considerably in terms of quantity and size. Best catches are being made by anglers using worms and plenty of mussel chum. Blackfish remain in good supply at the local bridges and are being taken on both green crabs and fiddler crabs.

LONG BEACH

Bernie Haag of **Long Beach Sports Marina** reported very good flounder and blackfishing in the area. Ed Meyer and Lou Ianello of Queens on two different days last week wound up with flatfish catches of 107 and 74 fish. They fished the cement block using worms. John Sheldon and Pete Ramos demonstrated that there is still a good population of blackfish at the Atlantic Beach Bridge. The pair took 45 tautogs up to 4 lbs. on fiddler crabs. Nick Savine of Flushing threw the Cholera blues a curve last week. Using live bergalls he put away 15 bluefish from 15 to 23 lbs. John Stein and Frank Cullington used umbrella rigs to troll 62 school bass from 3 to 7 lbs. off of the Rockaways on Wednesday.

ATLANTIC BEACH

Capt Ron Lepper of the charterboat **Kim** called to say that the striped bass fishing has been super all week long.

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Jeff Rose of N.Y.C. journeyed to Gloucester to land his first giant bluefin tuna aboard the Sleeko. Shown with the fish are Gil Hallenbeek and Captain John. Subscriber photo.

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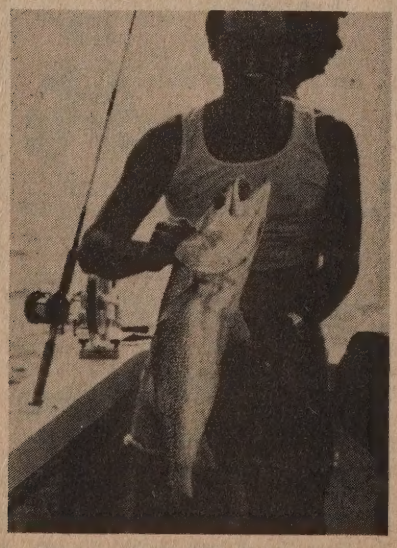

Elliot Krafchin of Flushing with a big weakfish taken back in July aboard the Howard Beach charter boat "Thermocline."

His charters have been averaging anywhere from 10 to 20 stripers a day in the 10 to 21 lb. range. Best areas are from Sandy Hook to the Jersey Highlands. Catches have been consistent with good catches of 12 lb. class weakfish mixed in and a scattering of 18 and 20 lb. gorrilla blues. Ron happily says that this is the best bass fishing the area has seen in the last four years. There are lots of sand eels and bunker around and this is probably what is holding the linesiders in the area. Sunday saw the first catch of large bass over 30 lbs. on a New Jersey charterboat. Fish were caught in the 30s and 40s. A really good fall says Ronnie. The boat has one open sailing date available in November, he added due to a cancellation. All catches have been on umbrellas. Early Sunday morning a Jersey gillnet boat moved in and took approximately 1000 stripers in his nets and really put a dent in the activity.

JAMAICA BAY

Artie at **Cross Bay Bait and Tackle** said that things have been pretty quiet in the area with the only action right now being some pretty good flatfishing from the local bridges. Both bloodworms and clams have been taking the fish.

Seaman's Bait also tells of remarkable striper activity in the Staten Island area and at the Verrazano Bridge vicinity with live eels taking the bigger fish with smaller stripers hitting umbrellas, worms and diamond jigs. The south shore jetties and the Marine Parkway Bridge have been very active with blackfish of mixed sizes.

SHEEPSHEAD BAY

Captain Tom aboard the **Pilot II** reported excellent blackfishing all week and through the weekend. This super blackfishing is being had at 17 Fathoms and offshore of Seabright, where fish up to 10 lbs. are hitting green crabs. Fares are filling burlap bags with catches ranging from 20 to 60 fish per person.

Capt Walt of the **Flamingo III** has been striped bass fishing since last Wednesday, since the blues are pretty much gone for the season. The skipper will be concentrating on striped bass through Thanksgiving at least. If a shot at stripers from a party boat whets your appetite, give this action a try. It is productive. On Wednesday fares accounted for 57 stripers, on Thursday 47 stripers and on Friday, 7 fares decked 70 striped bass, all on diamond jigs and vike II lures. Most fish are schoolies up to 10 lbs. but Walt hopes to be hooking some of the lunkers passing through. Despite the weekend's sloppy weather, 45 stripers were decked Saturday and 25 on Sunday. This was also despite the heavy private boat traffic. Walt also told us about this Jersey Highlands gillnet boat that came in and put a net down early Sunday morning and effectively screwed things up for the sportfishing fleet.

STATEN ISLAND

Lenny at **Santo's Sport Shop** said that there are lots of flounder at Penny Beach, piers 12, 13 and 17. Jumbo crabs also at the piers. Blackfish remain in good supply at the bug lights and a few school bass still being taken on worms around Hoffman and Swinburne Islands.

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GREENPORT

Dick Rubbin of the East Bay Anglers called to let us know that on Friday the club led by Bill Blitz chartered Capt Richie Jensen's **Nancy Ann** and they slaughered blackfish to the tune of 220 fish caught near the Ligthouse on whole baby green crabs specially obtained for the club by **Lou's Fishing Station** in Freeport. Artie Raskin had a 9 lb. black and "The Doctor" bagged an 8 lb. 12 oz. black.

A.P. White Bait Shop reports very good blackfishing along with a few striped bass being taken off Horton's Point up to Orient using Hopkins, popping plugs and umbrellas.

Capt Dave Brennan's **Peconic Star** says that the blackfishing is still decent although the weather has been against us.

Capt George Porter's **Brand X** has also been doing fairly well on the blackfish despite the strong winds and sloppy conditions.

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SOUTHOLD

Ace at **Port of Egypt Fishing Station** says the blackfishing has been very good in front of the Orient Point Station and at Mulford Point, fish running up to 9½ lbs. caught this week on green crab. Flounders at the trap east of the station up to 2 lbs. at the cable crossing. Flounders in the bay have been picky but should be improving as the waters continue to cool. Pipe's Cove and the Greenport breakwater have been producing a lot of action with enough keeper flounder to make it worthwhile. Orient is your best shot, weather permitting. Surf-casters at Horton's Point are doing a job on schoolie bass, mainly on Hopkins. Private boats working off Horton's Point are doing very well with a lot of stripers being caught 2 and 3 at a time.

SAG HARBOR

Capt Artie Lach of the **Wilhelric II** tells us that the blackfishing remains excellent with the bigger sluggers now hitting green crab/clam combo baits best. Artie has been fishing Plum, Big and Little Gull Islands and he says the flood has produced best this week. Saturday was the worst day due to the multitude of private boats in the prime blackfishing areas. Sunday was the best day with all fares loading up including a good number of monsters. Twelve fish taken on the boat went 10 lbs. and up. The pool went to NYC angler Donald Palm with a 14 lb. 13 oz. blackfish. His pal, the Professor, also of NYC took second place in the pool with a 12 lb. 12 oz. black. The boat will be sailing daily until November 16th, then it will be weekends only.

NORTH SHORE MID-ISLAND
★ BEST BET ★
BLACKFISH

GLEN COVE

Dave at the **Glen Cove Sport Shop** reported the only action in the Glen Cove area this past week concerned flounder. He described the fishing as decent, with worms accounting for the best catches. No word on any bass in the area.

HUNTINGTON

George Valentine of **Four Winds Bait and Tackle** spoke of excellent fishing all week for big blackfish at buoy 11B. Art Firman and Chet Senig put away 21 tautogs from 3 to 11 lbs.

Alec Ramirez displays the 15 lb. blue he landed recently aboard the Glen Cove open boat, "Lady Lil II."

while Max Schnettler and friends had 17 from 3 to 7¼ lbs. Young Alec Ramirez checked in a 5¼ lb. blackfish which he landed aboard the open boat **Ever Ready**. Nice flounder up to 1½ lbs. being taken by boatmen along Ashroken on the Sound side. Stripers continue to get a big play in the Eatons Neck rips. George got word that boatmen really did a number on the fish Sunday afternoon using umbrella rigs and Tri-Fin Tiger Stripe jigs. He also had a couple of scores

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Ted Shane's 31½ lb. striper took first place in the surfcasting division of Montauk Marine Basin's Tournament of the Full Moon. The fish was also good for second place overall in the contest.

from during the week to report. Bill "Packy" Collins, Mike Macchiaroli and Artie Tubertini totalled 30 stripers up to 13 lbs. while former surfcaster Ralph Votta teamed with Kenny Masci to take 28 bass up to 8 lbs. on the same Eaton's Neck grounds.

The **Ever Ready** reports that on the Election Day special Harold Leaf grabbed the pool with an 8½ lb. blackfish. He got several other good sized blacks as well. Regular Delores Schmidt had a 6 lb. 2 oz. black. On another trip Joe Papaleo won a pool with a 5 lb. 3 oz. black Sunday. The boat is now sailing 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday and Sundays. See ad for details.

SELDEN

Ken at **Angler's Den** tells of lots of blackfish in the Sound with the Shoreham pipeline being the hot spot with green crab working best. Catches of 20 to 50 blacks per boat is not uncommon with fish going up to 12 lbs. A few bluefish are still being caught on umbrellas and by casters. Flounders are being caught now in Stony Brook and Port Jeff Harbors while best bet for flounders remains Quogue Canal, buoy 54.

SURF REPORT
with Fred Golofaro

Surf fishing has come to a grinding halt over the past two weeks with virtually no reports of any action around the Island's beaches. A bluefish blitz along eastern south shore beaches a week ago Sunday has been the only reprieve since the "big blow."

Most surfmen, feeling the fall fishing is finished, have packed it in till next year. Being the eternal optimist, I still look forward to some fish moving through our area. Whether Mother Nature permits us to get a crack at them may be another story.

Out in Montauk, Johnny Kronuch spoke of a pretty dismal week with the only activity being on False and North Bars on Friday evening. Besides a few school fish, there were two bass of 20 and 30 lbs. taken.

Plenty of bait but no fish seems to be the story along most of the south shore. Down to the west, Bernie Haag reported only an occasional schoolie, while Lenny of **Santos Sport Shop** in Staten Island, spoke of a few school on worms from local beaches.

On the north shore, some small bass on worms and Rebels around the Northport power plant according to George Valentine at **Four Winds Tackle Shop** in Huntington. On the north fork, casters have been taking some school bass, shorts among them, on plugs and tin. No big bass however, and those teen sized choppers have been absent except for an occasional fish on chunk bait.

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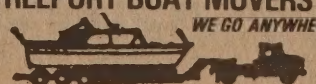
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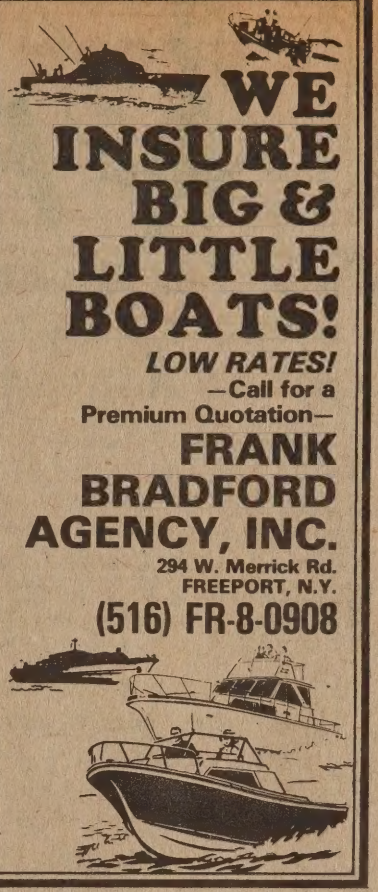

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